

AUTOGRAPHIC

COLLECTIONS

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LYMAN C. DRAPER

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Sketch of Lyman C. Draper, L.L. D.,

The Educator and Historian.

From the National Educator, May, 1883.

The editor is going to talk to his "girls and boys" very familiarly, and all about how to get on in the world under the most adverse circumstances; and to do so we must have a subject, a live subject at that, and one too that they have not read much about, but will say that the boy that he will so familiarly talk about was in experiences just about what the average village or farmer boy has had; he was as a boy of the period required to do his share of the family labor, then when there was not much to do at home he did occasional jobs for the neighbors. One season he carried the hods, getting twelve and a half cents a day, called then a York shilling. In the season of fruit gathering he picked berries, carried them to the village and sold them; in the winter mended shoes and boots for the family. So you see he was handy. Then as he grew older he clerked in the village grocery and dry goods store. At times, when he could be spared, he attended the village school, filling in the odd leisure time by reading any books he could borrow, or when his scant earnings would permit would buy a book. By this close application to study in his spare moments he soon gained the reputation of a boy of studious habits, a youth of letters.

Right here the editor may as well tell the name of this boy; Lyman C. Draper, born Sept. 4, 1815; and the boy we are writing this truthful history about, had such a desire for knowing all about the history of his country, that at the age of ten, twelve and up to fifteen he already had acquired a general knowledge of the history of the country. He knew all about the Indian Wars, the war for independence, the war of 1812-14.

He never, boy as he was, neglected an opportunity of talking with old pioneers and old soldiers. He met Gen. LaFayette when that great friend of America visited this country in 1825. Lyman was then only ten years old and then had a passion for learning all about the great men. He met Gen. Cass, Gov. Clinton, and other big men of that day. He wrote sketches of them for the newspapers, LaFayette being the subject of his first composition, and also about the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He met many Indians and from their chiefs was always asking questions in regard to the wars they had been engaged in.

The years passed on, and he was every day adding to his stock of knowledge; and when he was 18 years old he traveled from western New York to Mobile, and while there collecting in-

formation from every reliable source, particularly of the southern Indians who at that time still occupied parts of Georgia, Alabama and other southern states.

On his return the next year, he came round by way of New Orleans, then up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers by steamboat, then across the country to Granville, Ohio, where he entered college, staying over two years, distinguishing himself by the rapid progress he made in his studies. He made the best use of his time, and soon acquired an excellent library for those days. In the winter of 1835-36, he journeyed by horseback to Columbus, through thick woods and rough roads. The season was stormy, the roads almost impassable, the bridges being carried away by the floods. On one occasion he and his horse were carried down stream, and he narrowly escaped drowning. But he made the journey safely, accomplished the object he went for, and returned, and then journeyed east and entered a seminary at Stockport, New York, and was a close student for over one year. Completing his course, he took an extended course of private reading—his books the early histories of the border.

He became so much interested that he conceived the idea of writing a history of the western border life, and this became his controlling thought, and he entered upon it with an enthusiasm that has never faltered. He wrote many letters to prominent pioneers all along the line.

In 1840 he commenced to travel and visit the old pioneers and revolutionary soldiers in their homes, thus consuming much time, but securing information from the actors, as many of these old patriots could tell their story to an interested listener better than they could write it.

Boys, there were no railroads then, so our young Lyman the collector of historical facts traveled for many years far and wide on foot, horseback, by stage, lumber wagon, and steam boat, his receptacle for his note books being a knapsack. These journeys led him through thick woods and long distances through wilderness country. He traveled over sixty thousand miles meeting with hundreds of curious incidents, some accidents, many hairbreadth escapes by runaway horses, great storms, swollen streams, turned over stages, snagged and grounded steamboats, suffering from hunger, not allowing any of these to hinder the mission he had in view.

Many of the people he sought were far removed from the common conveniences of life, but a hearty pioneer hospitality was extended to the pilgrim explorer, after his arrival the stranger was welcomed to the shelter of the frontier settler's household. He spent weeks together in these crude homes in New York, Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee backwoods, gaining historical information, valuable reminiscences from the old settler, from his recollections or from family records, that would add knowledge in regard to the settlement in early days and the adventures and privation attending them. To give a list of people visited, would take columns of the *EDUCATOR*, as these searches after knowledge covered in time a space of over a quarter of a century, in which he interviewed the actors in the stirring scenes of the past who still survived. Among these were Major Bland Ballard a noted Indian fighter in Gen. George Rogers Clark's campaigns against the Ohio, Indiana and Illinois Indians. Another one was Major George M. Bedinger, a noted pioneer and Indian fighter of Kentucky; Gen. Whiteman of Ohio and Capt. James Ward of Kentucky, who had fought Indians with Kenton, and Gen. William Hall who had been a great Indian fighter under Gen. Jackson in the Creek War. He visited many of the old campaigners who had served with Gen. Clark in all his Indian expeditions, the old associates and their children who had been with Boone, Kenton, Sumter, Sevier, Robertson, Pickens, Crawford, Shelby, Brady, Cleveland and the Wetzels, and from these he gathered particulars in regard to the career of all these great fighters of the Revolution, the Indian wars and the war of 1812-14. He also visited among the aged survivors of the Indian tribes—the Senecas, Oneidas, Tuscaroras, Mohawks, Chicasaws, Catawbas, Wyandots, Shawanese, Delawares and Pottawattomies. Among these he found the old chief Blacksnake, one of the Seneca war captains at Wyoming with Brant, and the old chief Walker of the Wyandots. He also visited among the Canada Mohawks, who gave him an Indian name. In his southern trips he visited Gen. Jackson at his home in Tennessee, and had a long talk with him about his Indian wars and the battle of New Orleans; and coming up through Kentucky called on Col. R. M. Johnson, the reputed Tecumseh slayer at the battle of the Thames, and who was vice-president under Van Buren. He met Henry Clay and saw Gen. Harrison in Ohio.

These distinguished men and those in more humbler station he continued to interview and correspond with for near forty years, gathering authentic material for history. In later years, his activity has known no limit and he has gathered a rich harvest of collections. And now just think of it, boys, there are on the shelves of his library over two hundred and fifty volumes of manuscript, the greater part made up from wholly original matter covering the entire history of the wars from 1742, the date of the first skirmish with the redskins in the valley of Virginia, to 1813-14, when Tecumseh was killed and the Creeks were defeated.

Among these are the original manuscript narrative of Gen. George R. Clark's expedition to Vincennes, Kaskaskia and other points in Indiana and Illinois, to chastise the hostile Indians. The earliest original diary in his possession, is one kept by Captain Wm. Preston, relating to the Sandy Creek expedition in West Virginia, against the Indians, in 1756, and another by Col. Wm. Fleming of an early trip to Kentucky, and numerous others. Then come original manuscripts relating to St. Clair's and Wayne's campaigns from 1790 to 1795. To obtain all these vast stores of historical data, it required the arduous labors here enumerated to our class.

Mr. Draper's labors in other fields of literary effort, we have not the space to give in this talk. He edited newspapers, lived out in the woods in a floorless, windowless hut, a dozen miles out in the wilderness from "anywhere," trying to "clear up a new farm," most of his food being sweet potatoes.

In 1842 he left his "clearing" to take a clerkship on the Erie Canal. But he did not stay long, but the next year he went back south again and added more to his manuscripts from his intercourse with Mississippi pioneers, staying there only one year. He returned east stopping with a friend, then living near Baltimore, and this friend with his family moving to Philadelphia, where he accompanied them, still pursuing his labors for historical data.

From Philadelphia he moved in 1852 to Madison, Wis., being invited to assist in the management of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and the following year he was selected as one of the executive committee, and 1854 he was elected Corresponding Secretary, and under his care the Society has progressed at a marvelous pace ever since.

In the thirty-three years that he held that position, the society's library increased to over one hundred thousand volumes, besides such stores of manuscript, a splendid museum and art gallery, that attracts many thousands of visitors every year from every section of the union.

The circle of Mr. Draper's usefulness was enlarging all the time, and in 1858, he served as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, having in charge the educational interests of Wisconsin. In this enlarged sphere of usefulness he was quite as efficient as he had proved himself collecting historical memoranda.

The educational system of Wisconsin was at that early day but poorly organized, but he, by dint of perseverance and by his administrative ability, added new life to the educational system, that was felt in the schools of every part of the state.

Of the great advances made, the limits of this "talk" to the class will permit of but brief mention. He recommended the establishment of libraries; he made visits to other state superintendents and the leading educators of the day—Horace Mann, Presidents Wayland and Sears with such Canadian educators as Dr. Egerton Ryerson. He made a careful study of the workings of public school libraries, with the good results from them, and used all the valuable informa-

tion acquired in securing needed legislation at the session of 1859, by which one tenth of the state school fund income was set apart as a township library fund, to which was added one-tenth of a mill tax on the assessed valuation of the property of the state. His plan was to establish township libraries, place them under competent management, these to be furnished with books by the State Board. During the first year this was in operation, nearly ninety thousand dollars were raised.

Supt. Draper won golden opinions from the leading educators of the land; his work was commended by Gov. Randall, by legislative educational committees, his successors in office emulated his zeal, adopting his systematic method of keeping the records in all the details of the management of his department.

He also served as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin and the State Normal School. In these positions he was very efficient in promoting the interests of these institutions, devoting his energies to founding a library for the University. He believed "the true university of these days is a collection of books." This service, with his life labor in promoting the cause of historical literature, was formally recognized by the University by conferring upon him the title of LL. D.

Dr. Draper served only one term in the State Superintendency, and the year of 1860 found him back at his work in behalf of the State Historical Society, and in its prosecution he brought the industry of an enthusiast, conducting the Society's business with energy, persistence and business tact of high order. The additions to the great library and museum were made by his selection, and to this task he brought great historical knowledge. Part of his duties was to edit and publish the society's Wisconsin Historical Collections, ten octavo volumes of some five hundred pages each have been published, thus completing the first series, the last containing a general index to the whole.

These Collections relate to the history of the State, all gathered by Dr. Draper from early pioneers or by interviews with noted men, white or Indian. In the gathering of these materials in regard to the early history of Wisconsin, he has traveled thousands of miles, written many letters, and interviewed hundreds of persons.

So completely has the work been done, that is embodied in these Collections, covering all the old territorial history, that they at this time are the accepted authority for writers upon topics relating to Wisconsin's early history. All the great historians quote from him, and Bancroft, Sparks, Parkman, Shea, Lossing, have complimented Dr. Draper for the excellence, correctness and great importance to students of American history of these ten volumes of "Collections," in themselves a monument to him. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin is to-day what he has made it. Its near one hundred and twenty thousand volumes cover the entire range of American historical investigation—strong in the departments of western history, works on the Indian tribes, their wars—a collection of bound newspaper files, extending through a

period of over two centuries, a genealogical department, almost equal in extent to the Historic-Genealogical Society of Boston.

The museum contains many thousand objects of interest—a collection of pre-historic copper and stone implements, and an imposing array of oil portraits of American pioneers, also a full set of the autographs of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence—fifty of them being autograph letters, also a full set of autograph letters of the thirty-nine signers of the constitution, and nearly complete set of the presidents of the Continental Congress, and the presidents of the United States.

In this hasty recital to the "Girls and Boys" of our class, the editor can truly say "the half has not been told"—no, not a tithe of the labors of this great historian and scholar can be enumerated here. So we will hasten to a conclusion. Of his published works one book was published in 1869, the title, "The Helping Hand, an American Home Book for Town and Country," a work of great practical utility. But his great work—coming exactly in the range of his special field of scholarship—is "King's Mountain and its Heroes," a volume of over six hundred pages, a true narrative of the Whig, Tory and British warfare in the Carolinas during the war of the Revolution. The book was well received, and Bancroft writes of it calling it "a magnificent volume." Parkman says, it "Is truly wonderful, requiring a lifetime of careful research—a copious record of this very interesting passage of our history." Geo. W. Childs says of it, "A delightful book—enchains the reader." Gen. Joe E. Johnson, says, "I find it the most interesting American historical work I have ever read." Gen. Sherman says, "The work deserves credit for accuracy and fullness." Hon. Robt. C. Winthrop writes, "Interesting and valuable, exhibiting great research." Gov. Seymour says, "It is a valuable contribution to the history of our country." Gov. Perry writes, "I am amazed at the extent of the historical information it contains." *The Literary World*, Boston, "The effort is a master-piece." Prof. Phillips says, "The author has a gift for such work, and may be styled 'The lover of Patriots.'" Hon. J. M. Lee, Tennessee, says, "The book will live; its crowning virtue is, it tells the truth, doing equal justice to Whig and Tory." Such are a few sententious extracts, approving Dr. Draper's great work.

He is a clear, forcible writer, with pure, elevated style, a conscientious desire to do exact justice to all the great actors who have moved on the stage of history. He considers a perversion of truth as the meanest of lies. No living man is so equipped to write the history of the border forays of the Revolutionary epoch, and of the first pioneer settlements, as Dr. Draper, and a great body of students of American history are waiting his forthcoming works. The "Girls and Boys" of our class, whom we hope are all students of history, will be glad to know by the following letter received by the editor, that the wishes of historical readers are soon to be gratified.

SKETCH OF LYMAN C. DRAPER, LL. D.

MADISON, April 12, 1887.

Mr. J. BONNIAM,

MY DEAR SIR: Your obliging favor of 9th inst. calls for my kind acknowledgments—and for the number of the *EDUCATOR*, with its friendly notice. At my age, I personally have no desire for newspaper and magazine notoriety.

If notices of any of our toilers, in any pursuit, can be used as exemplars and stimulants to the young, it is very proper to use them.

While I have withdrawn from the Historical Society as its corresponding secretary and editor of its publications, one duty has lapped over for my completion—the tenth volume of our Society's Collections, which finishes the first series, and which will contain a full index of the whole ten volumes. I am at work on this, and hope soon to see it through the press. Then I shall "pitch in" to my own personal work—probably Boone first; then Gen. G. R. Clark. Boone was the older and preceded Clark in his advent into the West.

God bless you, my friend, I hope and pray you may long be spared for work and usefulness.

Faithfully Yours,

LYMAN C. DRAPER.

So, "Boys and Girls," prepare for something that is history, from this prince of American chroniclers.

Bancroft wrote him sometime ago, saying: "I look forward with eager interest for your lives of Boone, of Clark, of James Robertson, and so many others. Time is short—pray do not delay—the country expects of you this service."

Mr. Bancroft only voices the desire of the public for the early appearance of these volumes.

After these will follow others, and no doubt large orders will be waiting them when they issue from the press.

In addition to lives of Boone, Clark, Robertson and others, he has mapped out the life of Gen. Simon Kenton, the noted "border fighter" whose stirring career was filled with romantic adventure. Then came Sumter, the hero of South Carolina in the Revolution, while Brant and Tecumseh and other Indian chiefs, he desires to introduce in their true colors to the world of letters.

The great Indian fighters, Brady and the Wetzel brothers, are down in his stores of manuscripts for "a showing up." A work on Dunmore's Indian war of 1774 is also among those he has blocked out. One would think these were enough, but he has more. But this splendid series of histories, illustrative of early times on the border, should he be spared for the task, will rear for Dr. Draper a lasting literary monument.

He commenced to gather this matter more than a half century ago. The actors in these grand old scenes have never been fairly represented in any of the histories written. Dr. Draper alone has the *open sesame*, and we know that the wishes of our class and all other readers of the *EDUCATOR* will go out to him, that long life and good health may be vouchsafed him for the prosecution of the great work yet remaining for him to do, is certainly the ardent wish of every lover of truthful history. Dr. Draper is up in the seventies, "full of years and honors." His years sit lightly on his shoulders, and he is a bundle of nervous active, light and rapid of step, he is still as active as many youth. He is slight of stature, his features finely cut, his face readily brightens with the most winning smiles. A great part of his time has been passed among his books and manuscripts.

He is a most amiable old-young gentleman of "ye olden times," the "latch-string" of his library and working "den" is "always out," to those who have a legitimate errand thither, and when found, he is most amiable and charming, and sometimes a merry conversationalist. Few are so well informed on public men, current events and the literature of the day. He is a man of generous impulses, is the soul of honor. He has been a tireless brain worker—had he not been, he could not have accomplished what he has for the world of letters, or carved out for himself the eminent position as a historian among the reading people of the world. We are glad in this familiar "talk" to introduce him to our class. They will be glad to hear more about him and his "works, that will follow him" in the future, and no doubt many will further cultivate his acquaintance after this introduction by reading his works as they shall from time to time appear.







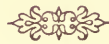
Lyman C. Draper

AN ESSAY
ON THE
AUTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS
OF THE SIGNERS
OF THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
AND OF THE
CONSTITUTION.

FROM VOL. XTH, WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS.

Revised and Enlarged.

BY
LYMAN C. DRAPER, LL.D.



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PREFATORY.

MANY years' experience in gathering, in behalf of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, a set each of the autographs of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and of the Constitution, led me to realize the patience and perseverance necessary in making such collections, and strongly to impress me with their value in illustrating our Revolutionary and Constitutional history.

In making a report of these collections of the Wisconsin Historical Society, it seemed most appropriate to introduce the subject with some account of the slow but steady growth in this country, of this beautiful and inspiring employment; and to note, moreover, other collections extant, complete and incomplete, exhibiting the great labor of bringing them together, and instituting, to some extent, a just comparison of their relative strength, historic importance, and intrinsic value.

The gathering of matter for this monograph was commenced in 1883, not then realizing the difficulties attendant upon the undertaking; but time, perseverance, and patience have resulted in this little contribution to the autographic literature of the country. For whatever of value or interest it may contain, the credit is largely due to the several persons mentioned in this essay, whose suggestions and information have been freely and generously contributed in furtherance of a fair and just attempt to portray the growth and extent of this interesting branch of American literature.

In examining any array of autographs of the Fathers of the Revolution, one cannot but feel in his heart a kindling of patriotism, and cherish a sense of sympathy, as though he lived and shared with those noble patriots in their trials and sufferings, hopes and fears, and in the ultimate triumph that joyfully crowned their long and weary labors in the forum and on the field.

So useful, patriotic and inspiring an occupation as gathering, arranging, and illustrating any series of American autographs is worthy of all

praise, and it may well be hoped that such letters and documents as have escaped the thoughtless vandalism of the past may be utilized in forming holograph collections of the great men and worthy women of a former day, who have distinguished themselves in any department of history, literature, or science. When properly grouped, illustrated, and bound, such collections possess an interest that no mere book can ever impart, because such a volume is unique in itself, and the autographic specimens which form the collection inspire within us a love and reverence for the writers we should not otherwise feel, and serve, moreover, to give us new sources of studying their lives, characters, and solid worth to their fellows and their country.

While enjoying, with pardonable pride, the gathering and possession of noble collections of autographs, it is gratifying to note that several of our American collectors design providing for the eventual transference of their treasures to deserving public libraries of our country, where they will be preserved with pious care for all time, and thus be made to subserve the noblest purposes of patriotism and history. This is highly creditable to the foresight and good judgment of such persons, and is worthy of emulation by other possessors of similar inestimable literary gatherings.

The reproduction of this essay on the autographic collections and collectors of our country, in this neat and tasteful form, is due to the enterprise of Charles De F. Burns, the American pioneer in the distribution of the written remains of the heroes and worthies of the past, and an expert as well of their genuineness and value. For a long series of years Mr. Burns' aid, experience, and judgment have been called into requisition in forming and improving many valuable collections, gathered by the good taste of not a few persons in our widely-extended country.

L. C. D.

MADISON, WIS., *March 1st*, 1889.

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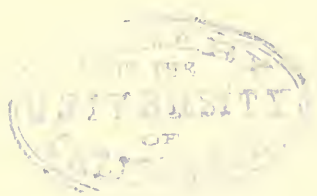
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AUTOGRAPH COLLECTIONS.

THE London *Athenæum* declared, in 1855, that "the story of what History owes to the autograph collectors would make a pretty book." Interesting as this phase of the subject might be made, it is not the purpose of the present paper to attempt its elucidation.

Sir Richard Phillips, whose career extended from 1767 to 1840, claimed in his day to have been the pioneer in the collection of autographs. This *may* have been true so far as England is concerned, limiting his collection to varieties made for the single object of curiosity. An autograph collection, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, should not be confounded with collections of historical manuscripts, made and preserved by Governments, Libraries, and historians, for purposes of public records, or as materials for historic literature. Such collections date back to the times of papyrus manuscripts and the Alexandrian Library, long anterior to the discovery of printing.

Some vague references to autographs may be traced back to the palmy days of Greece and Rome. Autograph signatures in albums, we are told, were known as early as 1466; and about the year 1550, persons of quality took about with them elegant blank books for the signatures of eminent persons or valued friends. One of these albums, preserved in the British Museum, bears date 1578. In Germany, over three hundred years ago, the practice of making collections of autographs seems to have been quite common. It began with noblemen, and persons of taste and wealth. The custom soon spread to other countries. Many large autograph collections were formed in the sixteenth century, notably those in France of Antoine Lomenié de Brienne and Le Croix du Maine—Brienne's collection reaching 340 large folio volumes, preserved in the French National Library.

Similar collections have been made in England. Sir Robert Bruce Cotton, Sir Hans Sloane, and Sir Thomas Bodley were the pioneers of

this good service in that country. Cotton's career extended from 1570 to 1631; and his gatherings embraced ancient records, charters and other manuscripts, which had been dispersed from the monastic libraries during the reign of Henry VIII—among which is the original of the famous *Magna Charta*, the foundation of British constitutional freedom, wrung by the sturdy barons from the reluctant King John, in 1512. His library and manuscripts, which had received numerous additions from his son and grandson, after having been partially destroyed by fire in 1731, were transferred, while still numbering over 20,000 articles, to the British Museum, in 1757. This was apparently the earliest collection of the kind made in England.

Sir Hans Sloane, born in 1660, and dying in 1752, made a wonderful gathering of autographs in his day, commencing early and continuing to the end of his extended life of nearly ninety-two years. As a great physician and naturalist, and long president of the Royal Society, his tastes were largely in the line of natural science; yet his collections embraced many works and manuscripts on history, and his cabinet of curiosities was the finest of his time. Extremely solicitous that the rich garnerings of a lifetime should not be scattered at his death, and unwilling that so large a portion of his fortune should be entirely lost to his children, he bequeathed the whole to the public on condition that Parliament should make good £20,000 to his family. This sum, though large in appearance, was scarcely more than the intrinsic value of the gold and silver medals, the ores and precious stones, in the cabinet alone; for in his last will he declares, that the first cost of the whole collection amounted to £50,000. Parliament accepted his legacy, and from this ample beginning the British Museum had its origin, supplemented shortly after by the noble Cottonian collection. Among the Sloane Library of upwards of 50,000 volumes, there were 347 illustrated with cuts finely engraved, and colored from nature; and 4,100 volumes of manuscripts, together with an infinite number of rare and curious works of every kind.

Sir Thomas Bodley gathered his library and manuscripts in the latter part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, which formed the nucleus of the noble Bodleian Library of Oxford, since augmented by many additions to 22,000 volumes; and in many departments, these collections are unique and invaluable.

The subsequent manuscript additions to the British Museum, since the Sloane and Cotton foundation, have been very large. The collection of Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, numbered over 7,600 volumes, containing 40,000 documents; the Lansdowne MSS. consisted of 1,245 volumes; while the Hargrave, Burney, Grenville and other collections have served to swell this great storehouse of manuscripts to magnificent proportions, enriching and elucidating every department of historic, scientific, and miscellaneous literature.

Auction sales of autographs began in London early in this century; and since about 1823 they have been quite frequent both in London and Paris.

The pioneer autograph collectors in the United States were Israel K. Tefft, of Savannah; Rev. Dr. Wm. B. Sprague, of Albany; and Robert Gilmore, of Baltimore: followed by Lewis J. Cist, of Cincinnati; B. B. Thatcher, Hon. Mellen Chamberlain, Dr. John S. H. Fogg, and Chas. P. Greenough, of Boston; Howard K. Sanderson, Lynn; Nathaniel Paine, Worcester; Maj. B. P. Poore, Newburyport; Charles H. Morse, of Cambridgeport; Mrs. Wm. Hathaway, New Bedford; Prof. E. H. Leffingwell, New Haven; Mrs. E. H. Allen, Providence; Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet, Col. T. B. Myers, Almon W. Griswold, Jos. W. Drexel, Hiram Hitchcock, and D. McN. Stauffer, New York; Hon. Henry C. Murphy and Gordon L. Ford, Brooklyn; Hon. H. S. Randall, Cortland Village, N. Y.; Hon. John Boyd Thacher, Albany; Hon. Elliot Danforth, Bainbridge, N. Y.; Hon. Henry C. Van Schaack, Manlius, N. Y.; G. D. W. Vroom, Trenton, N. J.; Dr. Lewis Roper, Ferd. J. Dreer, Simon Gratz, Robert C. Davis, J. J. Mickley, Henry C. Baird, Charles Roberts, and Geo. M. Conarroe, Philadelphia; Col. Frank M. Etting, Ward P. O., Penn.; John M. Hale, Philipsburg, Penn.; Rev. J. H. Dubbs, Lancaster, Penn.; James W. Howarth, Glen Riddle, Penn.; Dr. J. I. Cohen, and Col. Brantz Mayer, Baltimore; Henry A. Willard, Washington; Dr. C. G. Barney, Richmond; Prof. R. W. Gibbes, Columbia, S. C.; Col. C. C. Jones, Augusta, Ga.; Chas. F. Gunther, Chicago; Byron Reed, Omaha, Neb.; and State Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

The Pennsylvania Historical Society, and New York State Library, though having valuable sets of autographs, secured them in their col-

lected condition, by purchase, and were not collectors by piecemeal. Charles De F. Burns, of New York, as a dealer in autographs, and publisher of the *American Antiquarian*, has, for a long series of years, rendered singular aid to many collectors of the country.

Mr. Tefft seems to have been the precursor in the collection of autographs in this country. Born in Smithfield, R. I., February 12, 1795, he early lost his parents, and was raised on a farm. He acted awhile as a book-keeper in a manufacturing establishment. In 1816, he removed to Savannah, where he engaged in business, till misfortunes overtook him, when he served with credit as a clerk, editor of literary papers, and cashier of a bank. He commenced saving autographs as early as 1815-16, without, apparently, at its commencement any definite purpose. "He kept it very quiet at first," as he naively said in after years, "feeling for some time very shy of being known as the collector of such things." He could not have entered very enthusiastically into the work until many years thereafter; for, Dr. Sprague says, when he visited Mr. Tefft at Savannah, in 1830, his collection was in a very incipient state, probably not numbering more than twenty or thirty letters. But some of these must have been rarities, for when Dr. Sprague made this visit, Mr. Tefft most courteously and generously offered for the Doctor's acceptance such of his autographs as he did not possess. Dr. Sprague selected quite a number, assuring his Savannah friend that he would return their full equivalent. At first, Mr. Tefft grieved not a little over the loss of the gems of his collection, and felt that his spirit for further gathering was broken, and that he should scarcely seek to make good the ravages of this great Northern despoiler. "But," said Mr. Tefft, many years after, "never was promise more faithfully kept; my gift to Dr. Sprague was literally bread thrown on the water—it returned to me a thousand-fold; and to his steady liberality and friendship have I been indebted, more than to all others, for the value of my collection."*

Another anecdote is related of Mr. Tefft, which illustrates how accident sometimes furnishes what the most patient inquiry had failed to supply. Visiting a gentleman's residence near Savannah—apparently after 1845—Mr. Tefft, finding the owner absent, walked out on the

* *American Antiquarian*, August, 1870.

lawn, when a paper was blown across his path, and listlessly picking it up, he joyfully discovered it to be one of the rare autographs of a Georgia Signer of the Declaration—the only one he then lacked to complete his set, and of which he had long been in active pursuit. When the owner returned, and Mr. Tefft had transacted his business with him, he was asked to specify the amount of his fee. “Nothing,” said Mr. Tefft, “if you will allow me to keep this piece of paper I found on your lawn.” The owner replied that he was welcome to it; that its writer had once occupied the place, and his own servants had recently cleaned an old garret of papers of which this was a waif. Mr. Tefft related this circumstance with great enthusiasm, and evidently valued this prodigal more than any other of the rarities of his many years of persevering search.* This it would seem was the autograph of Button Gwinnett, the rarest not only of the Georgia signers, but, save Lynch, of the whole immortal fifty-six.

Mr. Tefft, after having formed one full set of autographs of the Signers of the Declaration, and lacking only three of another, and having made a splendid collection of other notable characters of both continents, died at Savannah, June 30, 1862. He was a noble man, and liberally assisted his fellow collectors with duplicates—especially of Thomas Lynch, Jr., that rarest of autographs of the Signers. In 1865, Almon W. Griswold, Esq., of New York, purchased of Mr. Tefft’s widow, his incomplete set of autographs of the Signers, which was some years afterward disposed of, through Messrs. Sabin & Sons, to Joseph W. Drexel, of New York; while the full set of the Declaration Signers was purchased at the Tefft sale by E. French, at \$625.00, and subsequently sold to the New York State Library. The remainder of Mr. Tefft’s valuable collection was disposed of at auction in New York, in March, 1867, the catalogue filling 264 pages, and estimated to comprise 25,000 specimens.

Dr. Sprague commenced his collection apparently as early as the autumn of 1815—as soon, perhaps, as Mr. Tefft, and possibly even earlier. “To him,” says Charles F. Fisher, of Philadelphia, “more than to any other single individual in the country, are we probably indebted for the discovery and preservation of large masses of inval-

* *Historical Magazine*, April, 1862; *American Antiquarian*, Nov., 1870.

able correspondence of the Colonial and Revolutionary times, which in old trunks and boxes, in garrets and cellars, were fast hastening to decay, and exposed daily by accident or carelessness to destruction, until rescued by his zealous and untiring researches."

Dr. Sprague was born at Andover, Conn., October 16, 1795, and graduated at Yale College in 1815. During the latter part of his senior year in college, he was invited, through the Hon. Timothy Pitkin and Prof. Silliman, of Yale, to go to Virginia, as an instructor in the family of Maj. Lawrence Lewis, a nephew of Gen. Washington, whose wife, *née* Eleanor Park Custis, was the grand-daughter of Mrs. Washington, and the adopted daughter of the Great Chief. He accepted the invitation, and in the autumn of 1815 set out for Maj. Lewis' country seat, Woodlawn, which had been a part of Washington's plantation, near Mount Vernon. Here he was cordially received, and remained as a tutor in the family until June, 1816.*

It was during this period—embracing probably nearly all of it—that he obtained permission from Judge Bushrod Washington, who inherited the papers of his distinguished uncle, to take whatever letters he might choose from Gen. Washington's voluminous correspondence, provided only that he would leave copies in their stead. The result was, that he came into possession of some 1,500 letters, many of which were included in the three sets of the Signers which he completed. "Of course," writes his son, Wm. B. Sprague, Jr., "many other autographs were obtained from friends by way of exchange, but a very large number of his collections were addressed to Washington, and bear his endorsement." Dr. Emmet had thought, from what Dr. Sprague had told him, that the latter had, with his exchange with Mr. Tefft, made up from his Washington collection a full set of the Signers, and all the Generals of the Revolution.

Mr. Gratz states that, of Dr. Sprague's best set of Signers, which eventually came into his possession, twenty-one were addressed to Washington; and, from this set, five had previously been exchanged with Dr. Emmet, including the Lynch letter, and letters of Heyward and Middleton. Mr. Gratz adds, that a few of the letters in his set of

* Charles B. Moore's Memoir of Dr. Sprague, in *N. Y. Genealogic-Biographical Record*, Jan., 1877.

the Signers, obtained by Dr. Sprague from the Washington manuscripts, are represented in duplicate in the second Sprague set of the Signers, now belonging to the Pennsylvania Historical Society. It would appear, therefore, that aside from some duplicates, Dr. Sprague did not acquire from the Washington manuscripts to exceed twenty-nine letters of the Signers,—except duplicates, a little more than one-half of the whole number. He probably had to exchange duplicates for many he did not possess, not only with Mr. Tefft, as Dr. Emmet states, but with several others, as indicated by Wm. B. Sprague, Jr.

There is a pretty general opinion with our oldest and most intelligent autograph collectors, that Dr. Sprague originated the idea of making a collection of the autographs of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence; and that he was undoubtedly the first to complete his set. The date of its completion is not known—it was, however, prior to 1834; for Dr. Gilman's first visit to Mr. Tefft, in 1834, in connection with Benjamin B. Thatcher's* letter of June, 1835, reproduced in Burns's *American Antiquarian* of September, 1871, show that Robert Gilmor, of Baltimore, had made his collection of the Signers complete, with the single exception of Lynch; Mr. Thatcher adding: "Rev. Mr. Sprague has outrun him in this field, for he has the whole, and so has Dr. Raffles, of Liverpool, and *these are the only two complete sets in the world.*" Dr. Raffles' collection was not yet complete; it then lacked at least George Taylor's autograph.

Dr. Sprague passed away May 7, 1876, but not until he had gathered one of the largest and most valuable private collections of autographs in this country—numbering, it is said, 40,000 specimens. He completed three sets of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, two of which remain intact, and hereafter noticed; while the third set has been broken up, and gone to improve or fill up deficiencies in other sets—some in completing that of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Mr. Thatcher testified, in 1835, to Dr. Sprague's wonderful collection—as "at the head of the list *longo intervallo*, being composed of

* This earliest writer on American autograph collections was born in Warren, Me., Oct. 8, 1809, and died in Boston, July 14, 1840. He was the author of a number of useful works.

20,000 specimens, at least—an enormous multitude, indicating, most significantly, the vast pains which must have been taken by that intelligent, amiable, and indefatigable enthusiast to enhance the extent of his treasures.”

Dr. Sprague was a man of remarkable industry. Besides his pulpit ministrations, he wrote no less than sixteen different works between 1821 and 1866—one, *Annals of the American Pulpit*, is a production of great merit, in nine volumes. He also wrote numerous introductions to biographical and other works, was a contributor to Appletons' *New American Cyclopædia*, and the author of more than 100 pamphlets. The gathering of book materials, notably for his great work on the *American Pulpit*, largely contributed to the augmentation of his wonderful autograph collection. Take him all in all, Dr. Sprague fills a distinguished and unique place in the history of American literature, and is accorded on all hands the highest rank among the early American autograph collectors.

Robert Gilmor, of Baltimore, was also an early and successful collector of autographs. He was a man of liberal means, and one year, while in Europe, expended \$30,000 for paintings, autographs, and other objects of *virtu*. Dr. Jared Sparks, who resided awhile in Baltimore, aided Mr. Gilmor very materially. Mr. Thatcher's description of his collection, as it existed early in 1835, represents it as less voluminous, but more general and valuable, autographically considered, than Dr. Sprague's. It was very rich in specimens of noted English and French characters—Mr. Thatcher enumerating many of them. Mr. Gilmor lived to supply his wanting Lynch autograph; and, dying at the age of seventy-four, Nov. 30, 1848, his collection mainly passed into the hands of Mr. Ferd. J. Dreer, of Philadelphia, including his set of the Signers, while another portion was scattered, and aided materially in making up and improving other collections. In his lifetime, Mr. Gilmor had bestowed upon the Maryland Historical Society a rich array of manuscripts, illustrating the period of the French and Revolutionary wars; and these *Gilmor Papers* will long serve to perpetuate his memory.

The deaths of several of the Signers during the Revolutionary contest—Morton and Gwinnett, in 1777; Livingston, in 1778; Hewes and Lynch, in 1779; Hart, in 1780; Taylor and Stockton, in 1781

—so soon after appending their names to the immortal Declaration, have contributed to render their autographs exceedingly rare in any form. These names, with the other North and South Carolina Signers, together with Thornton, Samuel Adams, Hopkins, Lewis Morris, Stone, Wythe, and Hall, are among those most difficult to obtain.

Some time prior to 1834, Dr. Sprague was so fortunate as to obtain a Lynch signature from Gen. James Hamilton, of South Carolina, a nephew of that Signer, which he generously sent to Dr. Raffles, an indication that at this time Dr. Sprague had no thought of attempting the formation of any set of the Signers beyond that which he had already completed; and Mr. Tefft supplied his English friend with an official order, signed by Gwinnett. Still Dr. Raffles lacked a Taylor autograph to complete his collection—so he wrote to Mr. Tefft. This letter was shown to Rev. Dr. Samuel Gilman, of Charleston, S. C., on his first visit to Mr. Tefft, in 1834: “I now,” wrote Dr. Raffles, “possess every Signer of the Declaration of Independence, save one, viz., George Taylor.” On Dr. Gilman’s second visit, early in 1837,* Mr. Tefft showed him a letter from Dr. Raffles, “recently received,” in which he said: “Pray, are your Signers complete? I look with mingled emotions of sorrow and hope upon the only *hiatus* I have in mine.” How the good Doctor’s heart must have leaped for joy when he, not long thereafter, opened a letter from his fellow collector, Dr. Sprague, to find the long-sought “hiatus” supplied. It was a legal document, with the Christian name of the signature unfortunately torn off—still it served to perfect his set of the Signers. Its genuineness was vouched for by Dr. Sprague as an “original manuscript of George Taylor, one of the Signers.”†

* The dates of these two visits are determined by the time of their publication in *The Rose*, a literary journal, edited by Dr. Gilman and lady, at Charleston—the first part of *A Week Among Autographs* appearing in the issue of April 18, 1835; while the results of the second visit are given from June 10 to July 8, 1837. The papers on these visits were reproduced, first in Mrs. Caroline Gilman’s charming volume, *Poetry of Traveling*, in 1838; and somewhat enlarged in Dr. Gilman’s *Contributions to Literature*, in 1856. A file of *The Rose* is preserved by Dr. Gilman’s daughter, Mrs. Eliza Gilman Lippitt, of Washington, who has kindly furnished these dates from that source.

† Statement of Hon. T. Stamford Raffles, of Liverpool, son of Rev. Dr. Raffles.

Mr. Tefft's first collection of the Signers, at the time of Dr. Gilman's second visit, in 1837, was still far from being complete. He had then recently received from his friend, Dr. Sprague, among numerous other invaluable specimens, the autograph of Richard Stockton. "It had been for years," adds Dr. Gilman, "upon his list of *desiderata*, and was almost despaired of, as being probably no longer extant." He still lacked seventeen autographs to make up his set of the Signers—those of Thornton, Floyd, Lewis Morris, Hart, Morton, Ross, Smith, Taylor, Wilson, Read, Rodney, Stone, Braxton, Nelson, Penn, Lynch and Middleton. These deficiencies having been made known by the publication of Dr. Gilman's paper, *A Week Among Autographs*, attracted the notice of persons who furnished him with these *desiderata*—President Sparks alone sending him three letters. Whether the fortunate discovery of the Lynch signatures by Dr. Gilman, in 1845, served to complete Mr. Tefft's first set, we are not informed; but when Dr. Gilman published his *Contributions to Literature*, in 1856, in which his autograph essay is reproduced, he states, that since its original publication, and in consequence of its appearance, Mr. Tefft had completed his collection. Mr. Cist, in the *Historical Magazine* of August, 1859, says "it was perfected many years ago." Mr. Tefft's indomitable perseverance—with a supply of the Lynch signature to bank on—enabled him, in a few years, and prior to the outbreak of our civil war, to form nearly a second set, lacking only Paine, Sherman, and Stone, which eventually passed into the hands of the late Jos. W. Drexel.

Up to 1845, no collection of the Signers was complete, save those only of Dr. Sprague and Dr. Raffles. In April and May of that year, Dr. Gilman obtained for Mr. Tefft several signatures of Thomas Lynch, Jr., cut from a volume of Latin translations made by him while at college, preserved by his nieces, the Misses Bowman, of Charleston, and from fly-leaves of printed books formerly belonging to Mr. Lynch, which had been presented by Mr. Bowman, who had married a sister of the Signer, to the Apprentices' Library of that city; and these precious signatures were presented by Dr. Gilman to Mr. Tefft, at whose solicitation he had procured them. He at once shared his rich acquisition with Mr. Gilmor, Mr. Cist, and others, thus enabling them to complete their collections, and with Dr. Sprague for

his additional sets. Hon. Mellen Chamberlain writes : "I was at Dr. Sprague's house in Albany, I think, in 1848, and he then had two complete sets of the Signers—one of which he designed for his son." The discovery of the Lynch signatures has had the happy effect of completing no less than fifteen collections of the Signers.

Col. Jones, of Georgia, has succeeded in obtaining four Lynch signatures, three of them without the prefix, Thomas, or suffix, Jun^r., from the Signer's books purchased while a student at Eton—his T. Lynch, Jun^r., signature, in his best set, is accompanied by one of those simply "Lynch;" another forms the Lynch representation in his second set, while the other fills its proper place in his Old Congress series. It is, therefore, quite possible for this enterprising collector, in the course of time, to emulate Dr. Emmet, in the completion of four sets of the immortal Signers. Col. Jones states that he obtained these four Lynch signatures from a lineal descendant of one of the sisters of the Signer, adding : "I regret to say, that this source of supply is wholly exhausted—at least, such is my present information."

So these fifteen Lynch signatures, not reckoning that of Dr. Gibbes, destroyed at the burning of Columbia, appear to embrace all those discovered by Dr. Gilman, and four since obtained by Col. Jones. These, with the peerless Lynch letter, originally in Dr. Sprague's best set, now in Dr. Emmet's, with the signature furnished by Gov. Hamilton to Dr. Sprague, and by him transmitted to Dr. Raffles, together with the two land documents, in the collections of Col. Meyers and Mr. Thacher, and a receipt detached from the deed in the Meyer's collection, given by Mr. Lynch and wife just prior to going to sea in 1779, which now represents Lynch in the set at the Pennsylvania Historical Society. These make the twenty-four undoubted Lynch autographs found, twenty-two in the full sets of the Signers extant, and the two extra signatures of Col. Jones, and no other genuine signatures of this Signer are known to exist.

The difference in the character and attractiveness of these several collections is very striking. One of the most distinguished collectors in the country very justly remarks : "The different sets of the Signers that are owned in the United States vary greatly in character, interest and value. Some of them are as much superior to others as a perfect

Caxton imprint is superior to one that is largely made up of leaves in *fac-simile*. Some are composed, to a great extent, of A. L. S. of the period, on public matters, while others are formed mainly of letters and documents of a private business character, written at a date remote from 1776."

It is not strange that some autographs of the Signers—notably that of Lynch—have been counterfeited. "A few years ago," says the *American Antiquarian* of Nov., 1870, "a well-dressed man called to see one of the most eminent * collectors in Philadelphia, and offered to sell him a letter of Thomas Lynch, Jr., which he claimed to have discovered somewhere in the South. A single glance satisfied the collector that it was a base forgery, and tearing the document in pieces, he handed back the fragments to the stranger, who accepted them, and retired without saying another word."

"Many years ago," writes Mr. Gratz, "a man residing in Washington, who called himself James W. Turner,† offered for sale in Philadelphia counterfeits of Lynch and other rare Signers. Whether he was the person who actually manufactured these bogus autographs, I cannot say; it is probable, however, that he was. The work was so well done that inexperienced collectors were completely deceived by it; in fact, some old collectors were imposed upon, and purchased his wares. I have seen not less than half a dozen of them, and two or three recently, all of these Washington city forgeries.

"Turner's first effort to sell a Lynch letter in Philadelphia was made in the year 1861. It was successful." The prices variously paid for his letters, so far as known, were \$10, \$30, \$50, and in one instance, \$100. "Shortly afterwards," continues Mr. Gratz, "he sent a Philadelphia collector *five* letters of Lynch, written on paper of different sizes, folio, quarto, and octavo, so that the collector might select the specimen that best suited him. By that time, however, the fact had become known here that his productions were not genuine, and he was

* The late Robert C. Davis.

† This was probably an assumed name—no such person is recollected by Dr. J. M. Toner, and other intelligent surviving residents of Washington of the period referred to; nor is any mention made of James W. Turner in the old directories. —Letter of W. A. Croffut, Esq., of Washington.

unable to make any further sales to Philadelphians. He once paid a visit to Philadelphia, and tried to dispose of a lot of counterfeit Signers. He chanced, however, to offer them to a dealer who was posted, and who advised him to leave the city as quickly as possible if he wished to escape arrest. He wasn't slow in getting away.

"Nor did Turner confine himself to the manufacture of Lynch's autograph; but supplied, on demand, those of Gwinnett, Hall, and other rare signers."

Mr. Dreer, of Philadelphia, has preserved two of these spurious Lynch productions: so regarded by Mr. Gratz. One of them was purchased from the widow of the late John M. Siegfried, of Easton, Penn., a prominent autograph collector in his day, and the other at the sale of his literary effects. Both are dated in Philadelphia, one July 23d, 1776, referring to "the sudden decease of my father," when, in point of fact, the younger Lynch did not attach his signature to the engrossed copy of the Declaration until nine days afterwards, and then appended "Junr." to his name, showing quite conclusively that his father was living at the date of this pretended letter; and Thomas Lynch, Sr., did not die, as Sanderson and others inform us, till some time in the subsequent autumn, at Annapolis, on his way home, accompanied by his filial son.

In the four undoubted signatures extant written by the younger Lynch after his father's death, that appended to the full letter in Dr. Emmet's collection, and those affixed to the three land documents in the respective collections of the late Col. Myers, Hon. J. B. Thacher, and the Pennsylvania Historical Society, he invariably discarded the "Junr."

Had the elder Lynch been dead at the time, as is asserted in this pretended letter of July 23d, 1776, there would have been no occasion for the suffix "Junr." to his son's name on the Declaration, on the 2d of August thereafter.

The other Lynch letter from the Siegfried collection, dated July 10th, 1776, which Mr. Gratz pronounces also as one of Turner's fabrications, and a comparison of the two surely point to the same paternity, simply purports to be a recommendation of a Philadelphian to a Charleston friend, and beneath Lynch's name, signed as in the other instance "T. Lynch, Junr.," is that of Arthur Middleton; the latter

a poor counterfeit, obtained by a rude tracing apparently over the *fac-simile* of his signature in Sanderson's *Lives of the Signers*; the size of the tracing is so singularly exact as to prove its origin, as both Dr. Emmet and Mr. Stauffer, as well as the writer can testify.

The internal evidence alone in the pretended Lynch letter of July 23d, 1776, brands it as an imposture and a cheat, while that of July 10th of the same year, and confessedly in the same hand-writing, must necessarily partake of the same unreliable origin and character as the other.

A writer in a recent Washington city paper, in an interesting account of the autograph collection of Mr. Henry A. Willard, of that city, thus refers to his Lynch letter and signature: "Mr. Willard has a Lynch signature, and he has also what he believes to be a Lynch letter. It was submitted to the inspection of Mr. Simon Gratz, of Philadelphia, a well-known collector, who wrote Mr. Willard that he believed it was a forgery. He said that he recognized it as one of the forgeries of a man by the name of James W. Turner, who, Mr. Gratz states, flourished in this city [Washington] some twenty-five years ago, and sent out a number of counterfeit Lynch letters.

"Mr. Willard, however, believes in the genuineness of the letter. He obtained it from Mr. Fred. B. McGuire of this city [Washington], who found it among the Madison papers, in the possession of his father, the late James C. McGuire, who was the executor of the estate of Mrs. Madison. 'It had lain among those papers undisturbed,' says Mr. McGuire, 'for the past thirty years, since the settlement of the estate.' Mr. Willard thinks it is hardly possible that a forged letter would be found in such a collection."

And yet the facts are decidedly against its being a genuine Lynch letter. Aside from its having every appearance of being one of Turner's productions, it presents internal evidence that it was not written by the person, nor at the time it purports to have been; nor could it have been addressed to Gen. Moultrie as stated upon its face. The letter reads as follows:

"PARISH ST. LUKE'S, *Jan'y* 2^d, 1775.

"DEAR SIR:

"I have ordered a squad of ten men under command of S'g't McDowell to seize provisions at Bache's Mills.

"We captured yesterday, on its way to the interior of the Province, a train loaded with flour and salt beef. I have ordered it to be sent to Charleston under guard.

"My men are all well and in good spirits.

"I am very respectfully

"Your humble serv't,

"T. LYNCH JR.

"*Capt. S. C. R'g't.*

"GEN. MOULTRIE, CHARLESTON,
per SERG'T DRAKE."

Brief as is this apparently plausible letter, when examined in the light of facts and history, several glaring errors are disclosed, any one of which would sufficiently brand it as the work of an impostor, and a bungling one at that.

1. There never has been any such parish as St. Luke's anywhere in the Charleston region, either in the revolutionary period or in more modern times.

2. At the date of this letter, Lynch was no captain, nor was he till nearly six months thereafter.

3. All evidence is wanting of any such locality as Bache's Mills; and certain it is that, on the 2d of January, 1775, there was no seizing of provisions, flour nor salt beef, in South Carolina. It was not till some time in June, after the reception of the news of the conflicts at Concord and Lexington, and perhaps at Bunker Hill as well, that the militia of South Carolina were organized and put in motion.

4. Appended to Lynch's signature we find "Jr." thus abbreviated, when he almost invariably wrote it "Jun^r."

5. His rank and military organization are imperfectly given, as "Capt. S. C. R'g't"—conveying the idea that there was only one South Carolina regiment in service, whereas there were several, after their organization in June, 1775, and Lynch was really a Captain in Col. Gadsden's first South Carolina regiment, and would not have been likely to have failed to name the regiment to which he belonged.

6. The indorsement on the back, supposably by the receiver, is in the same pale ink used in preparing the letter itself, a very suspicious circumstance.

7. This letter purports to have been addressed to "Gen. Moultrie."

It is true, that in June, 1775, not earlier, Moultrie was appointed Colonel of the second South Carolina regiment ; but he was not promoted to the rank of a Brigadier-General till Sept. 16th, 1776, over twenty months after the time this pretended letter was addressed to him as General. Besides Gadsden, not Moultrie, was Lynch's superior officer, to whom he would properly have addressed his official reports.

It matters very little how this spurious Lynch letter came among the Madison papers, though perhaps placed there innocently and inadvertently by the elder McGuire, who may, very likely, have been imposed on by some one ; or it may have become mixed up with these manuscripts in some other way not now explainable.

Gen. Moultrie, it is understood, belonged in early days to the Federal party, and Madison to the Jeffersonian or Democratic party, and it is quite improbable that they had any intimate or personal relations ; nor could Madison's papers be presumably supposed to have been the receptacle of revolutionary documents, in which he could have had no interest whatever other than in those addressed directly to himself ; and in the early days of the Revolution, Madison was scarcely known outside of his own neighborhood and county.

The single signature of Lynch in Mr. Willard's collection, which a good expert who has examined it pronounces as unmistakably one of Turner's wares, has an ear-mark which plainly indicates its origin. It has been shown that Mr. Dreer's bogus Lynch letter, purporting to have been written July 23d, 1776, bears internal evidence proving its historic falsity. In this same letter the latter stroke of the letter h in Lynch's name runs down considerably below the other letters in the signature, and in this particular is very singular, and contrary to the signer's mode of making the terminating h in writing his name. The very same peculiarity occurs in this Lynch signature of Mr. Willard, and as the Dreer letter with this singularity has been proven to be fraudulent, so the Willard signature possessing precisely the same peculiar formation of the letter h determines beyond a question that both were the production of the same prolific counterfeiter.

Dr. Fogg, of Boston, has what both Dr. Emmet and Mr. Stauffer agree with me in regarding as a Lynch counterfeit. Some years ago Dr. Fogg purchased a large parcel of Colonial papers, among them quite a number of autographs of members of the old Congress. This

document signed Thomas Lynch and A. Rutledge was of the number. It is an order on John Calvert, who was probably a resident of Maryland. Dr. Fogg at first supposed it was an autograph of the elder Lynch, until subsequently observing that the date—more than a year after his death—disproved this supposition. This document, dated Feb. 14th, 1778, is apparently a genuine order signed originally by A. Rutledge alone, and both Dr. Emmet and Mr. Stauffer judge from its appearance that it came from the collection of the late Robert Gilmor, of Baltimore, from which source each of these gentlemen has a considerable number of specimens. Some one, apparently Turner, prefixed the name of Lynch on the same line with Rutledge's, as there was not space for it below, in such a way as to convey the idea that Lynch signed it at the same time with Rutledge. This Lynch signature is in much paler ink than Rutledge's, and paler generally than the rest of the document. The T in Thomas, as well as other letters, has a striking resemblance to Turner's other Lynch productions.

Comparing all these spurious Lynch fabrications with Dr. Emmet's genuine letter of the signer, with the aid of Dr. Emmet and Mr. Stauffer, it was apparent, that while Turner had to some extent evidently studied, or attempted to study, the *fac-simile* of Dr. Emmet's Lynch letter as given in Brotherhead's work, yet this reproduction is not a good copy—too coarse in the engraving; yet it was evident that the counterfeits were penned in a much ruder manner than Lynch ordinarily wrote—*always*, in fact, save when he signed the land documents extant with trembling hand when in failing health. The two figures 7, in the year, in Dr. Emmet's letter, and the mode of writing "Sir," are strikingly different from those in the Turner counterfeits. In all three of these Turner letter forgeries, the two in Mr. Dreer's possession and that of Mr. Willard, Charleston is invariably written as in modern times; whereas, in Dr. Emmet's Lynch letter to Gen. Washington, Lynch writes it Charles Town, as was the uniform custom at that day, whether in letters or printed books, legislative journals or newspapers; and it was not till a considerable period after the Revolution that the name was abbreviated as we now have it. The word obedient, which is written in full in the genuine Emmet letter, is abbreviated in the two Dreer letters into "ob'd't" and "ob't."

Besides, in all six of these Turner frauds, the letters composing

Lynch's name—excepting T in Thomas—are invariably run together after the T in Thomas by one stroke of the pen in each portion of the Christian and surname, which was not usual with the signer, especially in his maturer years. Three of these counterfeits have “T. Lynch, Jun^r,” appended to them; one, “T. Lynch Jun.,” and the Fogg document and single signature of Mr. Willard are in full, Thomas Lynch, without the Jun. in any form. On the Declaration, as *fac-similes* show, it* is L-yn-ch, and so in Dr. Emmet's letter; while Mr. Gratz writes that, on carefully inspecting the Lynch signature to the signer's receipt in the collection of the Penn. Historical Society, he finds the Christian name Thomas written thus disconnectedly—T-h-om-as, and the surname, L-y-n-ch. His early boy signatures, written while at Eton College, and which form the cut signatures extant clipped from his books and Latin translations, in some instances show possibly his name run together, though generally the letters forming the Lynch signature are more or less disjointed, as L-y-n-ch, or L-yn-ch. The J in junior is separate from the rest of the word, while Turner in his fabrications writes Jun^r., running all the letters together, once writing it only “Jun.,” and once “Jr.” In none of the genuine Lynch signatures extant do we find “Jun.,” and one only where he wrote it “Jr.”

Fred. M. Steele, Esq., of Chicago, has one of these spurious Lynch letters, purporting to have been written Nov. 16th, 1775, addressed to Col. Gadsden, regretting that his feeble condition prevented his joining his regiment at that time. We have inspected this letter, as have others familiar with Lynch's real signature, and all unhesitatingly pronounce it a barefaced forgery. Mr. Steele picked it up in Washington several years ago. An able expert says truthfully of it, that “it is written on modern blue *sized* paper, such as was not made until from

* On May 26th, 1824, Congress directed the Secretary of State to distribute certain *fac-simile* copies of the Declaration of Independence, engraved by Wm. J. Stone, of Washington, from the original then in the State Department; and, on the 30th of June following, John Quincy Adams, the then Secretary of State, certified to these Declaration copies. One of them, in an excellent state of preservation, with Mr. Adams' well-known autographic attestation, is in the rich antiquarian collection of Gordon L. Ford, of Brooklyn, and there the signature of Mr. Lynch appears, as Mr. Ford unites with me in stating—T-h-om-as L-yn-ch Jun^r.

fifty to seventy-five years after Lynch's death." The whole letter is very clumsily produced—written in two kinds of ink, and Col. Gadsden's name is spelled "Gadsen," a mistake that the Signer would never have made. While it purports to have been written at Charleston, yet the word Philadelphia is inserted directly under Charleston. It is a miserable sham.

Neither Mr. Dreer, Dr. Fogg, nor Mr. Steele make any pretense to the genuineness of these Turner fabrications; nor does Mr. Willard of his Lynch signature; and it is merely as a warning to others, less experienced, that these several deceptions have been so fully explained and exposed. What has become of Turner, or his alias, is not known—he is probably beyond the reach of temptation to counterfeit or impose spurious autographs on the unwary and unsuspecting.

The successful forgeries of letters of Washington, Franklin, Lord Nelson, and others, by Robert Spring, with several aliases, of Philadelphia, form a curious chapter in the history of American autographs and collections. He was born in England in 1813, but of his English career nothing is known. He settled in Philadelphia as early as 1858, dealing in a small way in prints, autographs, and books relating to the history of America. He appears to have possessed both a facile conscience and pen. On one occasion, Mr. Stauffer relates, Spring ingratiated himself, on some plea of historical research, into the family of a descendant* of Judge Chase at Annapolis, one of the Maryland Signers, and managed to appropriate a goodly number of genuine autographs, from which he must have realized some two or three hundred dollars.

Unable to meet the demands on him for authentic autographs, he began to fabricate and sell spurious productions. Expert in the use of the pen, he soon acquired a rare facility in imitating the penmanship of Washington, Franklin, Lord Nelson, and others. At this period the temptation was great, as a Washington or Franklin letter would command fully \$20. "He had," writes Mr. Gratz, "so familiarized himself with all the characteristics of the handwriting of Wash-

* Presumably Hester Ann Chase Ridout, who died in Dec., 1888, leaving the commodious old homestead, erected by Judge Chase in 1770, as a home for destitute, aged, and infirm women.

ington and Franklin, that he could write a letter in a similar hand of either, without having an original letter, or any other guide, before his eyes."

These counterfeits were written on paper apparently of the period, with ink so prepared as to impart the appearance of age to the writing, well calculated to deceive those not well posted in genuine autographs. Mr. Gratz, in his notice of Spring in Appletons' *Cyclopædia of American Biography*, states that this adroit forger was frequently arrested by the civil authorities for obtaining money under false pretenses, but always escaped punishment by freely confessing his guilt, and expressing contrition for the offense.

His counterfeits of Franklin and Lord Nelson found ready sale in Canada and England. He resorted to various expedients to market his productions; at one time, to cloak his operations, he assumed to be a daughter of the celebrated Confederate leader, Gen. Thomas J. Jackson, and carried on correspondence in her name. He never attempted, Mr. Gratz states, to fabricate the signature of Lynch—he could, in his day, find more ready purchasers and better prices for such as Washington and Franklin. "He told me," adds Mr. Gratz, "the entire story of his forgeries, and showed me specimens of them all."

He died in poverty in a Philadelphia hospital, of which he was an inmate, Dec. 14th, 1876, at the age of sixty-three. Some of Spring's literary forgeries, as well as those of the persevering Turner, are still afloat; every now and then some of them turn up in the auction sales of autograph collections, and should be carefully avoided. For a further account of Spring and his fabrications, see Appletons' *Cyclopædia of American Biography*, and Appendix No. 1 of this essay.

As the rare specimens of the Signers become still more rare, and consequently of enhanced value, the temptation to counterfeit will be greater, requiring increased vigilance for their detection.

"When collectors of so much experience," continues Mr. Gratz, "as the late Dr. Sprague and Mr. Cist, placed autographs of *the wrong men* in their collections, as Dr. Sprague did with several of his Generals of the Revolution, and as Mr. Cist did in the case of George Taylor, the Signer, it is not surprising that others, through lack of knowledge or the absence of a skilled adviser, should accept of autographs of the wrong person." "At the recent Cist sale," writes Mr. Burns, "his

collection of Signers, always counted among complete sets, disclosed the fact that the autographs of both Hart and Taylor were not of the right men."

One of the most discriminating autograph collectors in this country writes: "There are many collections that would be considerably decreased in size, if an expert were to examine them, and cast out all the letters or documents that are not genuine, or not written by the persons whose handwriting they are intended to represent."

The danger of taking the son for the father, or *vice versa*, or the wrong man of the same name, has been very properly suggested by Mr. Burns, as well as by the autograph collector just quoted. There were two Lynches, father and son, so of Hart, Carroll, and Heyward. There were two Richard Stocktons, father and son, both eminent lawyers and statesmen of New Jersey—the Signer dying in 1781, while the son outlived the father forty-seven years, and whose autograph, by those not familiar with such things, and unobserving of dates, has been mistaken for the Signer's.

There were two Benjamin Harrisons, near relatives, and both prominent in public affairs in Virginia during the Revolution—one, the Signer, was contradistinguished from the other as Benjamin Harrison of Berkley; while his kinsman was known as Benjamin Harrison of Brandon—Berkley and Brandon being the names of their respective seats on the banks of the James River. Virginia also furnished two Thomas Nelsons—Thomas Nelson, Sr., familiarly known as Secretary Nelson, who resided in Yorktown, was the unsuccessful competitor of Patrick Henry for the first term of Governor of Virginia under the Constitution of 1776, and when, shortly after, chosen one of the Privy Council, he declined on account of the infirmities of age; while his nephew, Thomas Nelson, Jr., also of York County, who was the Signer, became Governor during the life-time of his namesake uncle. The father of Secretary Nelson, and grandfather of Gov. Nelson, also bore the Christian name of Thomas.

It may be added, that Josiah Bartlett, Robert Treat Paine, Oliver Wolcott, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris, George Ross, and others of the Signers, had sons of the same name. Col. James Smith, of Pennsylvania, afterwards of Kentucky, and a James Smith, of Carlisle, Pa., have sometimes been mistaken for their namesake, the Signer.

George Taylor, also of Pennsylvania, had a counterpart of the same name. There was a second John Morton, a Philadelphia Quaker merchant, sometimes mistaken for the Signer. "I have," writes Mr. Stauffer, "a series of about thirty-five letters that I call my set of *wrong men*, who had the same name, and flourished at the same period as the genuine ones." These are points that require the care and knowledge of an expert, in order to prevent errors, which experienced collectors are constantly on the alert to detect, and the mere suspicion of the existence of one of which, would injure the reputation of a set amongst *connoisseurs*.*

The progress of forming sets of the Signers has been slow from the start. It took from 1815 to well on toward 1834, for Dr. Sprague to complete his first collection; and till 1837 before Dr. Raffles succeeded in procuring the last of his fifty-six autographs. In 1845, we judge, Mr. Gilmor completed his set; and Mr. Cist and others probably not very long thereafter.

In August, 1870, Mr. Burns enumerated fourteen sets of the Signers, namely: Those of Dr. Raffles, Dr. Sprague's two sets, New York State Library, A. W. Griswold, Dr. Emmet, Col. Myers, Mr. Chamberlain, Mrs. Allen, Prof. Leffingwell, Mr. Dreer, Mr. Davis, Mr. Mickley, and Mr. Cist. The Griswold set, now Mr. Drexel's, was then incomplete, and the Mickley and Cist collections have since been dispersed, while that of Mr. Davis has been added to the collections of Mr. Charles Roberts. In November, 1870, Mr. Burns announced two others as complete—Dr. J. I. Cohen's, and Dr. Sprague's third set,—the latter of which passed into the possession of his son, E. E. Sprague, and since transferred to Hon. J. B. Thacher, of Albany.

Mr. Sabin, in January, 1871, placed the number of sets then in existence at seventeen, without naming them—"some of which," he added, "are very weak in specimens, and perfect in completeness only." It is quite certain that there were not so many complete sets at that day; some that were so reckoned, doubtless, lacked one or more specimens, as in the case of the Drexel set; and some, then incomplete, have since been dispersed, going to improve and complete others. As late as 1876, Mr. Brotherhead gave a list of seventeen

* Burns' *American Antiquarian*, Aug., 1870.

persons in this country engaged in making collections of autographs of the Signers ; of these, however, four never completed their sets, and two were afterward dispersed.

When the first edition of Brotherhead's *Book of the Signers* appeared, in 1861, reference was made, in a notice of the work in the *Philadelphia Press*, to Queen Victoria's collection, "which we have seen in the private library at Windsor Castle," etc. The well-known author, Theodore Martin, made inquiries regarding this pretended set, and wrote to Mr. Brotherhead, June 21, 1875 : "In his last letter to me, Gen. Ponsonby, Her Majesty's Private Secretary, says : 'When Mr. Brotherhead sent a volume through the Foreign Secretary, in 1861, he said : "Your Majesty already possesses nearly a complete set of the original autographs of the Signers." ' I can find no trace of this set of autographs, nor can I ascertain that the Queen possessed any of their autographs ;" and in a letter a month later, to Mr. Brotherhead, Gen. Ponsonby further says : "The Librarian assures me that no such collection is in the library, and his further search has confirmed him in his opinion, that the Queen never did possess these autographs. He also inquired at the British Museum, but no trace of any such collection can be found." Dr. Emmet writes : "Queen Victoria has no set ; for I tried to see it at Windsor, and was told positively that she never had one." This should be regarded as conclusive.

In enumerating the collections of the Signers extant, Mr. Burns, in the August number, 1870, of his *Antiquarian*, referred to the Queen's supposed set, adding : "Of this, we know nothing further than its existence. Can any one tell us whether it is an original collection, or that of the Rev. Dr. Raffles ?" As it was well known that the Queen had secured no set of the Signers in this country, it was very naturally surmised that she had obtained Dr. Raffles' collection ; but it transpires that the Doctor's set has never passed out of the possession of his family.

During our civil war, a complete collection of the Signers, gathered by the late Prof. Robert W. Gibbes, of Columbia, S. C., was destroyed at the burning of that city—of its composition, we have no knowledge ; of course, to have been complete, it must have included a Lynch signature. During all these past years, three full sets have been dispersed—Mr. Mickley's, one of Dr. Sprague's, and Mr. Cist's ; and eight sets

transferred entire to other collectors, namely : "Mr. Gilmor's to Mr. Dreer, Judge Chamberlain's full set to Prof. Leffingwell, Mr. Tefft's two sets to New York State Library and to Mr. Drexel, Dr. Sprague's two sets to Mr. Gratz and Pennsylvania Historical Society, E. E. Sprague's to Hon. J. B. Thacher, and that of the late R. C. Davis to Mr. Charles Roberts ; and eleven sets, meanwhile, have been completed—three by Dr. Emmet, two by Col. Jones, and one each by Mr. Gratz, Dr. Fogg, Wisconsin Historical Society, and Mr. John M. Hale. The sets of Messrs. Drexel and Myers, and Mrs. Ely, deceased, pass to their families or descendants.

It is very doubtful if any additional sets can ever be completed, save by utilizing Col. Jones' two duplicates ; or by the transfer or breaking up of sets already formed ; though possibly some of the incomplete sets extant, whose composition is not known, might, if brought into market, help out one or two others. A few of the incomplete collections have Gwinnett, which still lack the Lynch signature.

It would seem that the source of supply of the Lynch signatures is practically exhausted, and perhaps the Gwinnett also. Dr. Gilman stated, in April, 1845, that the Misses Bowman informed him that a large trunk of the papers of their uncle, Thomas Lynch, Jr., had, a few years previously, been deposited for safety with their kinsman, Gen. James Hamilton, and was destroyed by the burning of his residence. They added that they had been accustomed, when they went into the country, to place that trunk, with its precious contents, in the bank, but had unfortunately on that occasion deviated from their usual practice. Other Southern signatures, notably those of Middleton, Heyward, and Hall, seemed almost as difficult of procurement.

Of the Lynch signatures, there appears to be fifteen extant obtained by Dr. Gilman, at Charleston, and transmitted to Mr. Tefft—namely, three possessed by Dr. Emmet, one each in the collections made or possessed by Gratz, Dreer, Leffingwell, Cohen, Fogg, Ely, Roberts, Drexel, Hale, Chamberlain, and the Pennsylvania and Wisconsin Historical Societies, not counting the one once possessed by the late Dr. Gibbes, not now in existence. The Lynch signature of Judge Raffles came from the same source as Dr. Gilman's ; and the four obtained by Col. Jones, of Georgia, one "T. Lynch, Junr.," the other three simply



"Lynch," came also from the title-pages of books once of the Signers' Library. Thus we have twenty—to which add the full Lynch letter in Dr. Emmet's best set of Signers, and the three Lynch land documents signed, in the set of the Pennsylvania Historical Society and those in the Myers' and Thacher collections, will make twenty-two altogether represented in the full sets extant of the Signers recognized and described in this essay, with the two duplicate signatures possessed by Col. Jones. Others there are, which are not regarded as genuine by our best judges.

Comparing the tracings of all three of Col. Jones' simple "Lynch" signatures, without a prefix or suffix, with Dr. Emmet's similar one, which is traced back to Dr. Sprague and Mr. Tefft, all four were found as nearly alike as possible, with a slight upturned curl at the end of the latter part of the h, like a single kink or twist in a pig's tail. This peculiar characteristic of all four of these specimens is very unlike the two Turner counterfeits—one in the letter of July 23d, 1776, in Mr. Dreer's possession, the other the Lynch signature of Mr. Willard, in which the last stroke in the h ends, not with an upward curl, but with a slight downward dash.

Dr. Sprague became possessed of at least two of the three Lynch signatures appended to land documents—two on one document—these were written in a trembling or *shaky* hand, and with poor ink—just before his fatal sea voyage, when in bad health, and hence the signatures, though genuine, are quite unlike that appended to the Declaration. Mr. Gratz owned one of these Lynch documents, that is now in the set of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, and before parting with it, and wishing to select the specimen he regarded as most desirable for his own collection, unhesitatingly preferred one of the neatly written cut signatures of Lynch; and he would not to-day exchange this cut signature for either of the three Lynch D. S. extant. It is quite possible that other collectors would act differently; but, we apprehend, most lovers of autographs would heartily approve the choice Mr. Gratz made.

The Gwinnett autograph is rare—no full letter of his has yet been discovered. Documents signed, of various kinds, have been preserved, so that each of the twenty-two full sets of the Signers have been supplied, and several of the incomplete sets have also a specimen.

Only five full Hart letters are known to be extant—two possessed by Mr. Gratz, and one each in the collections of Mr. Dreer, Mrs. Cohen, and the Pennsylvania Historical Society. Dr. Emmet states that he is under the impression that no genuine letter or document of Hart is extant, that does not show his lack of scholarship, either in spelling, misuse of capital letters, or want of punctuation, and that his signed letters appear to have been written by some one writing a very similar hand to that of the Signer, without betraying his deficiencies. Mr. Gratz confirms this opinion, adding: "Hart was a poor speller, using capitals at his pleasure, and in utter disregard of rules. These errors are numerous in both of the letters I have of his writing. I have seen some orders of the Assembly of New Jersey that were signed by Hart, but written by a clerk, whose handwriting *does* bear some resemblance to Hart's. I can scarcely believe that he ever had a private secretary; but when he was Speaker of the Assembly of New Jersey, and chairman of the Council of Safety, it is likely that he utilized the services of the clerk and his assistants. I have one such specimen, and have seen several others, the bodies of which are written, respectively, by different persons."

But two full Morton letters are known to exist—those in the collections of Dr. Emmet and Mr. Stauffer, and an unsigned one in the Raffles' collection.

We are aware of but six full Middleton letters—those in the collections of Messrs. Emmet, Gratz, Dreer, Leffingwell, Raffles, and Etting.

Eleven Heyward autographs, A.L.S., are in existence—two possessed by Dr. Emmet, two by Mr. Gratz, and one each by the New York State Library, the Pennsylvania Historical Society, and in the collections of Dreer, Leffingwell, Cohen, Ely, and Etting.

Eighteen full Hall letters are represented in the collections described, while Samuel Adams, Hopkins, Lewis Morris, Stockton, Hewes, Hooper, Penn, and Rutledge, though scarce, show a fair representation.

Intimately connected with a collection of autographs of the Signers, are copies of the engraved portraits, and views of the residences of the writers, for their proper illustration. Such engravings, judiciously selected and properly mounted, add vastly to the interest and attractiveness of any set of the Signers—indeed, they are quite indispensable.

Early as 1787, while our distinguished American painter, Col. John

Trumbull, was yet in Europe, he seems to have formed the design of his great national picture of the Signers—probably then painting Adams and Jefferson, our respective representatives at the courts of Great Britain and France, and obtaining their suggestions. In 1789, he painted portraits of such Signers as were then in Congress; or, as he has recorded it in his autobiography, “I arranged carefully the composition for the ‘Declaration of Independence,’ and prepared it for receiving the portraits as I met with the distinguished men who were present at that illustrious scene.” Again, in 1790, he records: “In May, I went to Philadelphia, where I obtained some portraits for my great work.” In September, after passing some time in the country, he went to Boston and New Hampshire in quest of heads; and, in 1791, he says, “In February, I went to Charles Town, South Carolina, and there obtained portraits of the Rutledges, Pinckneys, Middletons, Laurens, Heyward, etc. . . . In April, I sailed for Yorktown . . . and then rode to Williamsburg, and obtained a drawing of Mr. Wythe for the ‘Declaration.’” Washington, in a letter to La Fayette, November 21, 1791, spoke of “the greatness of the design, and the masterly execution of the work.”

As a few of the members who were present when the Declaration was passed on the 4th of July, retired before the engrossed copy was ready for signing, and thus failed to attach their names to the great American Magna Charta; while others, who were not present, but subsequently became members, affixed their signatures to the Declaration, Col. Trumbull was embarrassed in determining how to treat these classes. He finally resolved to include all the Signers of whom he could obtain likenesses, and also those who were present when the Declaration was enacted. Of this latter class, however, he for some reason, omitted John Alsop* and Henry Wisner, of New York,

* The letter of Thomas McKean, the Signer, to Mr. Dallas, Sept. 26, 1796, shows that Henry Wisner was present in Congress, July 4th, 1776, and voted for independence. Wm. Kelby, the able Assistant Librarian of the N. Y. Historical Society, has aided me in the preparation of this note on John Alsop, and his relation to the Declaration. He is represented as one of those who could not bear the thought of a separation from the mother country, and, besides, the instructions of the New York delegation did not authorize them to support so decisive a measure, and he was consequently opposed to the Declaration. On the

Charles Humphreys and Joseph Galloway, of Pennsylvania, and John Rogers,* of Maryland.

Speaking of the pictures of the Signers, Col. Trumbull says: "All saw the correctness of the portraits. Many knew the accuracy of the countenances recorded." He has introduced forty-eight heads, and full-length portraits, into his grand representation—five of whom were not Signers, namely, George Clinton, R. R. Livingston, Thomas Wharton, John Dickinson, who were in Congress when the act was passed, but not at the signing, and Charles Thomson, the Secretary, whose name attests the accuracy of the document, and genuineness of the signatures of the Signers. Of these forty-eight persons represented in the picture, Col. Trumbull seems to have faithfully painted thirty-eight from life, copied nine from other likenesses, and painted one, that of Harrison, from directions given him for the purpose.

In a letter written by Trumbull to Gen. W. H. Harrison, in Feb-

adoption of the measure, and its immediate ratification by the New York Provincial Convention, Mr. Alsop resigned his seat; and, in a letter to the Convention, he expressed surprise and indignation at the slight put upon the New York delegation in leaving it without instructions on this point, although such instructions had been repeatedly sought for, and he concluded by adding his disapprobation as to the course of Congress in closing the door against reconciliation with Great Britain. If further proof were wanting of Alsop's presence in Congress, on July 2d and 4th, 1776, it is to be found inferentially in the fact that the *Journals of Congress* show that he was appointed on a special committee as late as June 28th, only a few days preceding the vote on independence. Mr. Alsop, when the British took possession of New York, retired with his family to Middletown, Conn., where he remained till the close of the war. He died at Newtown, L. I., Nov. 22d, 1794.—See John Austin Stevens' valuable paper on *the New York Delegates to the Continental Congress, 1774-76*, before the N. Y. Historical Society, May 2d, 1876, subsequently given in the *Galaxy* magazine for August, 1876; *N. Y. Chamber of Commerce Records*, 1768-84, p. 120.

* With reference to Rogers, see Etting's *Hist. of Independence Hall*, 85, 96, 100, 177. The *Journals of Congress* show that Mr. Rogers was appointed on important committees, June 5th and 18th, 1776. Lanman's *Hist. of Congress*, and Drake's *Biographical Dictionary*, state that he served in the Congress of 1775 and 1776, was afterwards Chancellor of Maryland, and died at Annapolis, in October, 1789. There can be little doubt of his presence in Congress, July 4th, 1776, as Col. Etting asserts.

ruary, 1818, he states: "Since I wrote you last, I have inquired of Mr. Peale, and have received for answer that he possesses no portrait of your father in his museum. My sole reliance must, therefore, be on such description as you and his friend, Col. Meade, of Kentucky, can furnish me." As Col. Trumbull seems to have been faithful, painstaking, and conscientious, it is but fair to conclude that he painted the Harrison portrait from the suggestions of Gen. Harrison and Col. Meade, and that his drawing was submitted to them, and met their approval. Mr. Brotherhead very pertinently asks: "Is it not better that we should have a portrait of Harrison under these conditions than have none at all?" We may fairly infer, as we hear of no similar cases, that Col. Trumbull met with no other obstacles in the procurement of the forty-eight portraits introduced into his great picture. The fullest confidence may be reposed in the integrity of Trumbull, and the genuineness of his portraits.

Of the other thirteen whose heads do not appear in the Declaration painting, eight had passed away before Col. Trumbull commenced securing likenesses for this purpose—Gwinnett, Morton, Ross, Hart, Taylor, Rodney, Stone, and Penn. Hall survived till 1790; Francis Lightfoot Lee, and Braxton, till 1797; Thornton till 1803, and Smith till 1806. Why these five survivors were not visited by him, and painted, is a matter of surprise and regret.

It was not till early in 1817 that Col. Trumbull received from Congress a commission to paint this and three other historical pictures for the Rotunda of the Capitol. The painting of the Signers was first completed in October, 1818, when it was placed on public exhibition. Durand was employed in 1820 to engrave it, but it was not published until 1822, and is the original of the millions of copies of all sizes which have since been in circulation.

In 1849, William Hunt prepared the *Biographical Panorama*, printed by Joel Munsell, of Albany, and illustrated with woodcuts, in which, among others, were included the thirteen deficiencies of Trumbull's picture. In 1870, Mr. Burns commenced the publication of portraits of twenty-two of the Signers from drawings in the collection of Dr. Emmet. They were copied and engraved or etched by H. B. Hall, and more especially designed for purposes of illustration. The twenty-two were made up of Bartlett, Thornton, Whipple, Ellery, Hopkins,

Williams, Lewis Morris, Clark, Hart, Stockton, Smith, Taylor, Rodney, Braxton, Harrison, F. L. Lee, Nelson, Hooper, Penn, Gwinnett, Hall, and Walton ; and Mr. Burns added Rutledge from Sanderson's *Lives of the Signers*—thus supplying, in the number, ten of the thirteen deficiencies of Trumbull, leaving only Ross, Stone, and Morton unrepresented. Fifty sets of these Burns engravings were issued, when the plates were destroyed.

Inquiries having been made concerning the origin of some of these twenty-two Burns engravings, notably that of Hart, prompted Dr. Emmet to write a statement of the matter, in October, 1872, to a friend, which has never been published ; and which he has recently amended and enlarged at the instance of the writer of this paper. As thus corrected, it is well worthy of a place in this connection :

“I am very much obliged to you,” writes Dr. Emmet, “for giving me the opportunity of explanation in regard to the origin of these Burns engravings, as I have been placed in a somewhat false position with reference to them. For many years I have been illustrating Sanderson's *Lives of the Signers*, having had the whole book inlaid to folio ; and, with the illustrations, it has now reached some twenty volumes. As but a small portion of the portraits of these gentlemen had ever been engraved, I had beautiful water-colored drawings made by H. B. Hall of all the Signers given in Trumbull's large picture at the Capitol at Washington, which contained all but thirteen of the fifty-six. They were copied from the original painting.

“There is a portrait given of Stockton, and also of Williams, in this Trumbull picture ; but the Stockton engraved for Burns was copied from a likeness sent me by his grand-daughter, Mrs. George T. Olmsted, of Princeton—the same picture that is in the Princeton College Gallery. The head of this portrait had been cut out by an English officer during the Revolution, and it was thought for a long time to have been lost, but it was at length found behind the picture where it had fallen when decapitated ; but fortunately it was not so injured but that it could be, and was, restored.

“The Ellery, in the *American Biographical Panorama*, printed by Joel Munsell, in 1849, for Wm. Hunt, I found was the same as given in an unfinished plate, about the size of Trumbull's, from which I have the only impression I ever saw—the plate itself, in a damaged

condition, is, I am told, in the Massachusetts Historical Society. Of its history, I know nothing.

“The Thornton likeness in the Burns set was recognized by relatives as having been copied from a miniature then lost. A Mr. Thornton, then an officer of the navy, wrote to Col. T. B. Myers, of New York, at the time of publication, for information touching the lost original, stating that the Burns engraving bore a remarkable resemblance to different members of the Thornton family. I afterwards had a correspondence with a descendant, a lawyer in Newburyport, Mass., who had been struck with the family resemblance, and wished to learn from what source it had been obtained. Since then, the Thornton family have had a portrait painted from this Burns engraving, and presented to the State of New Hampshire, which now hangs in the capitol at Concord.

“The Williams was taken from a recently published history of the Williams family. It resembles very closely the wood-cut in the Hunt work, and both have the same peculiar manner of wearing the hair. The Francis Lightfoot Lee, in Hunt’s book, was evidently from the same source that Lossing obtained his, as given in the frontispiece to the second volume of his *Field Book*; the Burns engraving of Lee was from the Lossing copy. The Bartlett, in the Burns series, corresponded with a likeness I had traced to his family. The Hall likeness was taken from Brotherhead’s *Book of the Signers*; while the Hart, Braxton, Gwinnett, Penn, and Thornton were taken from engravings in Hunt’s publication, which were copied to complete my series, and my friends, and all who have seen the collection, are familiar with their source.

“After Burns issued the series, Charles L. Paschal, of West Philadelphia, a great-grandson of Hart, wrote me in October, 1872, inquiring about its origin, saying that ‘the Burns engraving of Hart from your collection has been received. His descendants know by tradition that there was, years ago, a portrait of him in existence, and as one of them I am willing to accept this engraving as from the long-lost picture, because the family likeness is seen distinctly in the descendants. I believe, therefore, it is correct, and am willing to accept it as authentic, and will do all in my power to prove the same, while some of my relatives still live to assist me, though at an old age.’

"Compare the Braxton profile engraving as published by Burns from the Hunt work, with the full-faced etching recently issued, and there can be no doubt that both likenesses were from the same original.

"There are other curious circumstances and corroborations in regard to these Hunt likenesses, although so roughly executed. That of Lewis Morris is a case in point. I had never before seen a portrait of Morris, except in Trumbull's picture as a young man ; and this Hunt representation bears a remarkable resemblance to his descendants now living in New York, with whom I have been personally acquainted both in the present and past generations.*

"A Miss Morris, of the family of Lewis Morris, Jr., has stated to me that the portrait of Lewis Morris, the Signer, which this wood-cut in Hunt so closely resembles, had been for many years in the possession of her father, near Willtown, South Carolina ; but during Sherman's march, a party of officers stopped at the house to obtain some refreshments, which were prepared by the ladies of the family, who were alone. After the meal, one of the officers arose from the table, and with his sword destroyed this picture as he left the room. Miss Morris, on being shown the Hunt likeness of her ancestor, the Signer, said that it had evidently been copied from the family portrait.

"The Morton was not engraved from the Hunt work, as his descendants held that there never had been a portrait painted of him. Yet I now think that this evidence proves nothing except that they do not happen to know of any ; for it was the custom of the day for every public man to have his portrait painted—and the family portraits were then about the only wall decorations in use.

"The Smith and Taylor were copied from two wood-cuts, which I purchased, among some odds and ends, at the Tefft sale of autographs, in March, 1867 ; and were of much larger size, and of older date, but evidently from the same source as the wood-cuts in

* Lossing, in his *Field Book*, and Brotherhead, in two editions of his *Book of the Signers*, substantially copy Trumbull ; though Brotherhead, in the first edition of his work, reverses the view. W. A. P. Morris, of Madison, Wis., a grandson of the Signer, has a likeness of his father, Gen. Jacob Morris ; and both father and son, in addition to their baldness, indicate other points of resemblance to both the Morris engraving in the Burns series, and in the Trumbull picture.

the Hunt book—from some older work from which they were copied. The authenticity of these likenesses, however, must remain in doubt. I was surprised to find that the Tefft wood-cuts of Smith and Taylor and the likenesses in Hunt's book were evidently from the same source, though the Hunt ones were only about half the size of the Tefft cuts. While this was on my mind, Dr. B. J. Lossing paid me a visit; and as he had been an engraver, I showed him one of the Tefft wood-cuts, and asked him if he knew anything about them. He pointed to the engraver's name on the block, showing that the period when these cuts were made antedated Hunt's work—the engraver dying about 1820. These two wood-cuts have since been lost.

“The Rodney was the only ‘make-up’ of the whole set issued by Burns. It was copied from the St. Memin portrait of the Signer's nephew, Cæsar A. Rodney, whose profile bore a remarkable resemblance to his uncle, as I had been informed by different members of his family.

“Regarding Hunt's *Panorama*, so often referred to in connection with the Burns engravings, I may add, that it was evidently written for the purpose of utilizing a number of odd plates and wood-blocks of different styles, originally gotten up for other purposes. Munsell told me that he knew nothing of the origin of the portraits, beyond the fact that he had to take a lot of old plates for a bad debt, and these were among the collection—and the book was written to utilize them.

“And yet Mr. Munsell has, in a playful way, stated in the catalogue of his imprints, that these engravings were the result of the imagination of a young English artist, closeted in a room, and inspired by beer and tobacco. I never saw a man laugh more heartily than Munsell did, when telling the late F. S. Hoffman and myself how easily he gulled a friend of his with the story of shutting up an English engraver to prepare a set of the Signers for him; that this friend seemed to want something of the kind, so he gave him a tough yarn.

“But, instead of these Hunt engravings being a cheat and deception, it is evident that those of them with which we are familiar, are fair, as regards likenesses, though very poorly executed. The volume is filled with portraits, and many of them we can identify by comparison with other likenesses, so that it is evident that the artist had an original to copy from in almost every instance.

“Mr. Burns did a good work in adding so many authentic portraits, while the uncertain ones, to complete the series, were done by request, for illustrations. I wish that we had authentic portraits for the whole number; but until they can be found, I shall be satisfied with what I have, feeling that full justice has been done them in the ideal, if ever proved so. I believe that portraits once existed of the whole; for the custom was too general at the time these men lived, and they may yet be found. But until then, no one can say positively that some of these portraits are without foundation—for the opposite opinion could as well be held.”

These views of Dr. Emmet are thoughtful and judicious. Another well-known and intelligent collector, the late Robert C. Davis, of Philadelphia, remarks: “Some of Mr. Burns’ series of the Signers are doubtful; but if we desire to illustrate their writings, what better can we do?” We may feel thankful that we have so many likenesses of the Signers that are of such well-established excellence and authenticity; and of the few uncertain ones, we may very properly treasure them in our illustrations until more reliable ones can be discovered.

One such discovery has recently occurred, as is learned from Mr. Charles Roberts, of Philadelphia, who writes: “At the New Orleans Exhibition of 1885, I found a photograph of Carter Braxton, in the Virginia display. On inquiry, at Richmond, it turned out to be genuine, and we have etched it.” Dr. Fogg, of Boston, writes that, in his opinion, the Bartlett likeness of the Hall series bears no resemblance to the painting of that Signer by Trumbull, preserved in the old homestead at Stratham, N. H., which has been engraved at private hands, a copy of which he sent to the Wisconsin Historical Society. It is believed, too, that there is a likeness of Lynch extant, as it has been promised by his friends for Independence Hall.

Might it not be better to have the Morton likeness, from Hunt’s *Panorama*, reproduced, or one made from prominent family traits suggested by its members, rather than have none at all?

Since Dr. Emmet penned his statement, touching Hunt’s *Panorama* and its engravings of the Signers, he calls attention to the fact, which he had overlooked, that while Hunt’s work appeared in 1849, Dr. Lossing had published *early in the preceding year*, his *Lives of the Signers*, giving forty-nine wood-cuts of the Signers, lacking only

Thornton, Hart, Morton, Rodney, Braxton, Penn, and Gwinnett ; and what is significant, is, that all of these forty-nine likenesses, together with that of R. R. Livingston, are precisely the same as those in Hunt's book, with slight changes, in some instances, in bust or costume, but not in facial expression. Dr. Lossing must have had good foundation for all these representations—giving five more than Trumbull ; so that Hunt, after all, copying from Lossing, had high authority for most of the wood-cut engravings of the Signers given in his *Panorama*.

The Ellery, Lewis Morris, Smith and Taylor likenesses discussed by Dr. Emmet, are thus shown to have been originally brought forward by Dr. Lossing, a year in advance of Hunt. While in his work on the *Signers*, Lossing gives George Taylor, as copied by Hunt ; yet from mere accident this Taylor likeness was omitted in his engraving of the Signers, prefixed to the second volume of his *Field Book of the Revolution*, published four years later.

Dr. Emmet makes reference to Mr. Lossing's likeness of Francis Lightfoot Lee in his representation of the Signers. Much credit is due Dr. Lossing for the pains he took in perfecting this engraving. Forty-eight of the Signers are represented in the picture, together with R. R. Livingston, one of the Declaration committee, not present at the signing. Besides F. L. Lee, Dr. Lossing introduces four others, not given by Trumbull—Smith, Ross, Stone and Hall. The eight not appearing on Lossing's picture are Thornton, Hart, Taylor, Morton, Rodney, Braxton, Penn and Gwinnett.

Aside from the group of the Declaration committee, Dr. Lossing thinks he did not copy largely from Trumbull. In his extensive travels over our country in quest of historical matter, and while visiting the families of the Signers, he, with the eye of an artist, not unfrequently discovered better delineations, and thus availed himself of his rare opportunities for improvement. But after a lapse of forty years, and having gathered and engraved so many hundred likenesses, he writes that he cannot, at this late day, recall the sources from which he obtained them. His picture of the Signers must ever be regarded as invaluable by all who take an interest in the pictorial literature of the country.

Dr. Emmet also refers to the Ellery likeness in Hunt's *Panorama* as being the same as that given in an unfinished plate, in possession of

the Massachusetts Historical Society. At the sale of the literary effects, some ten or a dozen years ago, of the late John K. Wiggin, a book-dealer of Boston, Mr. Burns, of New York, purchased a copy of an engraving of the Signing of the Declaration, very different from Trumbull's, some of the Signers having only the heads, but the plate contained a large number of the Signers; that Mr. Wiggin, learning of the plate, got permission to have a few impressions taken from it. Dr. Emmet has the impression obtained by Mr. Burns. Dr. S. A. Green states that the unfinished copper plate, about twenty-two by twenty-eight inches in size, was presented to the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1859, by Hon. Leverett Saltonstall, who says that he obtained it from the treasurer of the Revere Copper Company of Boston. The treasurer received it among a lot of scrap copper, and was curious to learn something of its history; but was unable to discover anything. The artist is unknown, and the plate itself reveals nothing of its origin.

The Morton engraving in Hunt's *Biographical Panorama*, Mr. Charles Roberts writes, does not, he is informed, resemble the family. "I remember," he adds, "John S. Morton, who lived near us, and our families visited. I understand that he made every effort to obtain a portrait of his ancestor, the Signer, but without success; and placed a tablet instead in Independence Hall. I am satisfied that there is no authentic portrait of Morton." Mr. Stauffer adds: "There is no portrait extant of Morton, save one through a mediumistic source—the family have none; every branch having been diligently interviewed."

The late B. B. Thatcher, of Boston, a noted *litterateur* and autograph collector of his day, declared, over fifty years ago, that the formation of a set of autographs of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was the *ne plus ultra* of American collectors—many having attempted it, and but few succeeded. Brotherhead, in his monograph on his visit to Mr. Dreer's collection of autographs, in 1857, speaking of his full set of the Signers, adds: "We know many industrious collectors, and they find it very difficult to collect even those that are considered the most common. In a few years, such a collection will bring an extraordinary price;" and in the first edition of his *Book of the Signers*, 1861, he says: "Both at home and abroad, every document, letter, or signature from the hand of a Signer, has become valua-

ble ; and the autographs of some of these worthies, it is almost impossible to obtain. A complete set is of the extremest rarity"—adding, that autographs of Heyward, Ross, Harrison, Hall, Livingston and Hopkins are scarce ; while those of Lewis Morris, Stockton, Hart, Morton, Taylor, Wythe, Penn, Hewes, Lynch, Middleton, and Gwinnet "are almost impossible to obtain, even a signature ; and that others are becoming rare, and bear a high value in proportion to their scarcity." Mr. Burns declared, in 1870, when the supply was less exhausted than now, that a collection of autographs of the Signers was by no means easy to be brought together ; while the late Mr. Sabin, a year later, said that "the formation of a set now is excessively difficult."

It is, therefore, no small marvel that our Society should, at this late day, have succeeded in completing our collection, after a quarter of a century's efforts—aided by that prince of autograph collectors, Charles DeF. Burns, of New York. Our set is as yet unbound, purposely delaying that final completion of the work, with the hope of possibly substituting full letters for some of the five signed documents of Hart, Morton, Heyward, Middleton and Gwinnett—the chances are, however, too faint to warrant an expectation ; and of the other, the Lynch signature, which is a good one, there is not the least prospect whatever of improving it. Another motive for delay in binding the collection, is to add somewhat to the number of engravings for appropriate illustrations.

When ultimately bound, they might possibly be compressed into three volumes ; one for each of the old divisions of the Union—the Eastern, Middle, and Southern States. But it is much more probable that the accumulation of illustrative matter, views and engravings, will render it advisable to extend the number of volumes to perhaps eight—viz. : New Hampshire and Massachusetts, with their illustrations, eight Signers ; Rhode Island and Connecticut, six ; New York and New Jersey, nine ; Pennsylvania, nine ; Delaware and Maryland, seven ; Virginia, seven ; North and South Carolina and Georgia, ten. The eighth volume to be composed of fac-similes of the Declaration, a printed broadside of the Declaration, published by order of the General Assembly of Rhode Island, July 12, 1776, a copy of the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of July 10, 1776, containing the Declaration ; together with

autographs of Charles Thomson, the Secretary of Congress, and of those members who voted on the question, but were not present when the engrossed copy of the Declaration was subsequently signed.

Such an arrangement of the autograph letters and documents, with appropriate illustrations, and letterpress of Sanderson's *Biography of the Signers*, with perhaps selections from Brotherhead's *Book of the Signers*, all inlaid, and properly bound, would present a noble record of the FATHERS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

A brief catalogue of our Society's set of these almost priceless letters and documents cannot prove otherwise than interesting—noting their dates, number of pages, general condition, and in some instances, the subject matter to which they relate.

An explanation seems proper of the abbreviations used in describing different kinds of autographs, with their relative rank or value. In making a collection of autographs, all seek to obtain, if possible, A. L. S.—*autograph letters signed*—as the best and highest class of specimens. Some regard L. S.—*letters signed*, the body written by a clerk—as next in rank of desirableness; but it would seem that A. D. S.—*autograph documents signed*, entirely in the handwriting of the signer—should be preferred. D. S.—*documents signed*, whether printed or written by another; and cut signatures are the least desirable autographs, yet they often serve to complete sets when nothing better can be obtained. An A. D.—*autograph document*, not signed, is sometimes called into requisition to eke out a collection, as better than no specimen at all, which it surely is. A. N. S.—*autograph note signed*—is generally regarded as equivalent to an A. L. S. Collectors constantly endeavor to improve all these classes by better specimens, in date, size, subject matter, or condition.

NEW HAMPSHIRE DELEGATION.

1. JOSIAH BARTLETT, A. L. S., December 6, 1794, one page, in good condition.

2. WILLIAM WHIPPLE, A. L. S., September 7, 1779, two pages, in good condition, addressed to his associate Signer, Mr. Bartlett, congratulating his friend on "the late happy event between England and Spain"—*i. e.*, their getting by the ears, by which the struggling young Republic might hope to profit.

3. MATTHEW THORNTON, A. L. S., October 9, 1775, one page, in good condition.

MASSACHUSETTS DELEGATION.

4. JOHN HANCOCK, A. L. S., September 9, 1780, one page, in good condition.

5. SAMUEL ADAMS, A. L. S., March 14, 1768, addressed to the people of Boston, which, says that experienced and competent judge of autographs, C. DeF. Burns, "is really the most satisfactory specimen of the name I have ever had." It covers two pages, dated, signed, and in the handwriting of Mr. Adams—a beautiful sample of chirography, finely preserved. It conveys facts of interest concerning the poverty of the Bostonians, and its causes, a few years anterior to the Revolution, viz. :

To the Free-holders and other Inhabitants of the town of Boston, in Annual Town Meeting assembled, March 14th, 1768 :

The Memorial of Samuel Adams sheweth :

That your Memorialist was chosen by said Town in the year 1764, a Collector of Taxes,—in which capacity he had before served the Town for nine years successively—and being duly sworn, had the Province, Town and County taxes, assessed the same year, accordingly committed to him to collect; at the same time he became bound to the Town Treasurer, with sureties, in the penal sums of Five thousand Pounds for the payment of the same into the respective Treasuries.

That with all possible diligence, and with his best discretion, he attended his duty; but was greatly retarded by means of the small pox, which then prevailed in the Town, and other obstructions: So that he was unable to make any great Progress, till a new year came on, when a new Tax was levied, on the same Persons who remained indebted to him as aforesaid, which Tax was committed to another person to collect. That the Town cannot be unmindful of the difficulties which the next year ensued, by Reason of the Stamp Act, and the Confusion consequent thereupon; which in a great Measure interrupted the course of Business of every kind. By all which there became a Burden of three years' taxes upon those Persons, many of them at least, who had not paid your Memorialist for the said year 1764.

That the Town, the last year, saw fit to direct their Treasurer to put

the Bond afore'd in suit ; which he accordingly did, and obtained a Judgment thereon ; and altho' your Mem'st has since been able to lessen the sum by Payments into the Treasury, yet there still remains a large balance due, which your Treasurer, if called on, can ascertain.

Now your Memorialist prays the Town to take the matter, with all its circumstances, into candid consideration, and grant him a further Time to collect his out-standing Debts, that he may be enabled thereby to compleat the Obligation of his Bond : Or otherwise, that the Town will do that which to them all shall seem good.

With all due respect to the Town,

SAMUEL ADAMS.

6. JOHN ADAMS, A. L. S., November 7, 1789, two pages, in good condition.

7. ROBERT TREAT PAINE, A. L. S., February 11, 1792, two pages, in good condition.

8. ELBRIDGE GERRY, A. L. S., April 27, 1814, one page, in good condition.

RHODE ISLAND DELEGATION.

9. STEPHEN HOPKINS, A. L. S., June 17, 1758—a note to the House of Deputies of that Province, about surgeons for the R. I. regiment then in service, one page, in good condition.

10. WILLIAM ELLERY, A. L. S., May 21, 1786, one page, in good condition.

CONNECTICUT DELEGATION.

11. ROGER SHERMAN, A. L. S., July 26, 1765, one page, in good condition.

12. SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, A. L. S., April 28, 1785, two pages, in good condition.

13. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, A. L. S., June 3, 1785, three pages, in good condition.

14. OLIVER WOLCOTT, A. L. S., June 17, 1786, one page, in good condition.

NEW YORK DELEGATION.

15. WILLIAM FLOYD, A. L. S., dated Philadelphia, August 10, 1776, expressing anxiety to hear about the situation of affairs, after the Brit-

ish invasion, on Long Island, where he then resided—"What has become of Gen. Woodhull, Mr. Hobart, Treadwell and Smith—what about my family—who escaped, or what must they submit to?" Two pages, in good condition.

16. PHILIP LIVINGSTON, A. L. S., November 11, 1751, one page, in good condition.

17. FRANCIS LEWIS, A. L. S., July 13, 1779, one page, in good condition. "Doctor Witherspoon and Col. Atlee," writes Mr. Lewis, "two of the committee sent to Bennington, are returned, and yesterday offered their report to Congress, who were of opinion that it could not be officially received, as the two others from Connecticut did not join them at the conference. . . . Our cruisers have of late been successful—two valuable prizes arrived here yesterday and the day before."

18. LEWIS MORRIS, A. L. S., March 6, 1784, one page, in good condition.

NEW JERSEY DELEGATION.

19. RICHARD STOCKTON, A. L. S., April 5, 1779, on land matters, one page, in good condition.

20. JOHN WITHERSPOON, A. L. S., December 19, 1785, one page, in good condition.

21. FRANCIS HOPKINSON, A. L. S., July 31, 1777—instructions to Capts. Barry and Reed, two pages, in good condition.

22. JOHN HART, A. D. S., an account of two pages, and indorsement, January 1, 1778, in good condition.

23. ABRAHAM CLARK, A. L. S., January 9, 1794, one page, in good condition.

PENNSYLVANIA DELEGATION.

24. ROBERT MORRIS, A. L. S., March 18, 1795, one page, in good condition—acknowledging the receipt of the sword of the late Admiral Paul Jones, which Mr. Morris says he "presented to Com. John Barry, the senior officer of the present American Navy, who will never disgrace it."

25. BENJAMIN RUSH, A. L. S., July 25, 1796, two pages, in good condition.

26. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,* A. L. S., London, May 2, 1770—addressed to Noble Wimberly Jones, Speaker of the Assembly, Georgia :

"SIR.—Your favor of February 21, was duly delivered to me by Mr. Preston, I immediately bespoke the Mace agreeable to your orders, and was assured it should be worked upon with diligence, so that I hope to have it ready to send with the Gowns by a ship that I understand goes directly to Georgia sometime next month. By the estimation of the Jeweller, who undertook it, the cost will not exceed £80. What the Gowns will amount to, I have not yet learnt ; but suppose £100 will be more than sufficient for the whole. I esteem myself highly honored by your Government in being appointed, as you inform me, a second time their Agent. I shall rejoice in any opportunity of rendering effectual service to the Province. I beg you will present my thankful acknowledgments to the several branches of your Legislature, and assure them of my faithful endeavors in the execution of any commands I may receive from them."

27. JOHN MORTON, D. S., a commission as speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly, July 8, 1776, in good condition.

28. GEORGE CLYMER, A. L. S., May 7, 1794, one page, in good condition.

29. JAMES SMITH, A. L. S., August 2, 1779, one page, in good condition.

30. GEORGE TAYLOR, A. L. S., April 18, 1757, one page, in good condition.

31. JAMES WILSON, A. L. S., June 18, 1792, three pages, in good condition—on land matters, addressed to Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, with a page of holograph notes of Mr. Carroll's reply.

32. GEORGE ROSS, A. L. S., January 20, 1779, one page, in good condition.

DELAWARE DELEGATION.

33. CÆSAR RODNEY, A. L. S., August 13, 1779, one page, in good condition.

* Dr. Franklin could not probably have had very much to do in the preparation of the Declaration of Independence. In a MS. letter of the doctor, dated June 21, 1776, addressed to Gen. Washington, now in Dr. Emmet's collection, occurs this statement : "I am just recovering from a severe fit of gout, so that I know little of what has passed there [in Congress], except that a Declaration of Independence is preparing."

34. GEORGE READ, A. L. S., September 25, 1797, two pages, in good condition.

35. THOMAS MCKEAN, A. L. S., January 4, 1787, one page, in good condition.

MARYLAND DELEGATION.

36. SAMUEL CHASE, A. L. S., March 16, 1785, on business matters, three pages, in good condition.

37. WILLIAM PACA, A. L. S., April 5, 1772, one page, in good condition.

38. THOMAS STONE, A. L. S., May 26, 1786, two pages, in good condition.

39. CHARLES CARROLL, of Carrollton, A. L. S., July 18, 1790, one page, in good condition. Also a letter from the Signer's father, dated August 3, 1775, addressed to "Dear Charley"—and directed to "Charles Carroll, of Carrollton."

VIRGINIA DELEGATION.

40. GEORGE WYTHE, A. L. S., April 26, 1790, one page, in good condition.

41. RICHARD HENRY LEE, A. L. S., January 20, 1793, two pages, in good condition.

42. THOMAS JEFFERSON, A. L. S., August 7, 1814, business matters, two pages, in good condition.

43. BENJAMIN HARRISON, A. L. S., May 11, 1788, two pages, in good condition.

44. THOMAS NELSON, Jr., A. L. S., July 30, 1785, business matters, three pages, in good condition.

45. FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE, A. L. S., May 3, 1771, three pages, in good condition.

46. CARTER BRAXTON, A. L. S., September 8, 1784, two pages, in good condition.

NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATION.

47. WILLIAM HOOPER, A. L. S., August 2, 1787, two pages, in good condition.

48. JOSEPH HEWES, A. L. S., May 15, 1776, one page, in good con-

dition ; stating that about three tons of powder had been voted by Congress for the use of North Carolina, and had been forwarded in twenty-five pork barrels, in three wagons.

49. JOHN PENN, A. L. S., June 7, 1778, one page, in good condition.*

SOUTH CAROLINA DELEGATION.

50. EDWARD RUTLEDGE, A. L. S., May 12, 1795, two pages, in good condition.

51. THOMAS HEYWARD, Jr., document signed, March 29, 1788, in good condition.

Also an autograph document, attributed to him, but probably only a copy, not signed, two pages of doggerel—entitled “A song made at St. Augustine,” no date, but during 1780-’81, while a prisoner there, captured at the surrender of Charleston. This song in part appears in Johnson’s *Traditions of the Revolution*, pages 269-270, and entire in *American Antiquarian*, May, 1871. Garden, in his *Anecdotes*, mentions that Judge Heyward wrote patriotic songs, with which to enliven his fellow prisoners, copies of which were made for their use.

While there is little doubt that Judge Heyward composed the song preserved in this copy, yet, on comparison of this manuscript with his autograph signature, and *fac-similes* of his chirography, it is questionable if this is a holograph copy—it is, at least, an ancient transcript, made in 1780-’81, by one of his associates at St. Augustine.

52. THOMAS LYNCH, Jr., signature only, from the fly-leaf of a book

* Sanderson, in his *Lives of the Signers*, followed by other writers, states that Mr. Penn had very deficient school opportunities, his father neglecting to give him the advantages of a seminary education, and that he had merely two or three years’ instruction at a country school. This is hardly correct. The writer has early manuscript authorities and reliable tradition, showing that Penn, a native of Caroline County, Virginia, attended awhile the very superior private academy kept by Donald Robertson, in the adjoining county of King and Queen, who made his home awhile in the family of the elder Penn. Robertson was a distinguished Scotch scholar, who had taken part in the Scotch rebellion under Prince Charlie in 1745, and subsequently retired to Virginia ; where, among his scholars, was James Madison, who, we are told by the historian Bancroft, rode on his pony from his home in Orange County, a hundred miles away, for the sake of placing himself under the superior instructions of this pre-eminent teacher of his day ; and Jack Penn, as he was familiarly called, was among Robertson’s most promising pupils.

which once belonged to him—certified by Rev. Dr. Samuel Gilman, of Charleston, that he presented the Lynch signatures of father and son, to I. K. Tefft ; with Rev. Dr. W. B. Sprague's certificate, that he received these signatures from Mr. Tefft. Fortunate, indeed, is the collector who gets a genuine Lynch signature, even though it be but a signature only.

53. ARTHUR MIDDLETON, document signed May 20, 1782, in good condition.

GEORGIA DELEGATION.

54. BUTTON GWINNETT, document signed, May 6, 1777, in good condition, and very neat. Gwinnett's autograph, like Lynch's, is exceedingly rare.

55. LYMAN HALL, A. L. S., March 30, 1759, one page, in good condition.

56. GEORGE WALTON, A. L. S., February 24, 1784, two pages in good condition.

Thus the catalogue shows fifty full autograph letters in the collection of our Society, of which those of Floyd and Hewes were written in 1776, and ten others during the Revolutionary period. There is no hope of improving the Lynch signature, which is a good one ; while the prospect of bettering the others, Hart, Morton, Heyward, Middleton and Gwinnett is scarcely more encouraging. As it is, the set is a fine one, in good condition throughout ; and the members of our Society may well felicitate themselves in the possession of so rich a treasure.

In addition to these fifty-six autographs proper of the Signers of the Declaration, we have, to appropriately accompany them, an A. L. S., August 11, 1782, of Charles Thomson, the Secretary of Congress, whose name attests the passage and the signing of the Declaration ; also an A. L. S. of Robert R. Livingston, August 2, 1810, one page, in good condition, referring to his wool and flocks of sheep ; an A. L. S. of Henry Wisner, October 9, 1778, one page, somewhat stained, otherwise in good condition ; and an A. L. S. of George Clinton, August 2, 1794, referring to supplies for the frontiers of New York, one page, in good condition. Livingston was one of the drafting committee of the Declaration, while Clinton and Wisner's votes were

recorded in its favor ; but, unfortunately for their fame, all three were called away from Congress by public duties at home, before the final engrossment of the document on parchment for the signatures of the members—Livingston even before the vote upon its passage ; but all were in hearty accord with the measure, and in full faith that the times and the circumstances demanded its adoption.

There is also in the collection an A. L. S. of John Dickinson, of the Pennsylvania delegation, September, 8, 1787, in good condition. He had for many years been one of the most steady and powerful opponents of the arbitrary measures of Great Britain against the Colonies ; but when Independence was brought forward, he opposed it in debate and vote as premature. It is further to be stated, that the instructions of the Pennsylvania Assembly did not authorize the delegates to vote for Independence. Referring to Dickinson's hesitation and opposition, Sanderson, in his *Lives of the Signers*, says : "When we mention the name of that great and good man, John Dickinson, we give sufficient proof that the cause of these sentiments was no unmanly fear." There was no better patriot in the country ; and though temporarily retired from Congress, he was the next year made a Brigadier-General of Pennsylvania militia, and two years later re-entered Congress as a member from Delaware. His services were important to his country. He died in 1808, in his seventy-sixth year.

Mr. Niles, in his *Weekly Register* of January 3, 1818, relates this interesting incident of Dickinson, "as showing the power of the *mind* abstracted from personal sensibilities : Fifteen or sixteen years ago, then residing at Wilmington, Delaware, as I passed the house of the late venerable John Dickinson, at 12 o'clock in the day, he was standing at the door, and invited me in. After reproving me for not having called to see him, for he had been a little unwell, he said that he would have a glass of wine with me—the first that he had drank for six weeks. After taking a couple of glasses in instant succession, he suddenly sat down, and abruptly asked me what I thought of the discussion then going on in Congress on the great question about the Judiciary.* Having very briefly given my opinion, he said in a sprightly manner, 'I'll tell thee mine'—on which he began an argu-

* This discussion occurred during the session of Congress of 1801-1802.

ment ; soon he became animated, and was uneasy in his seat. As he proceeded, he elevated his voice, and, finally, rising slowly and unconsciously from his chair, he put forth his hand, and addressed me as if I had been the chairman of a Legislative body, with all its members present. I never have heard a discourse that was comparable to this speech for its fire and spirit, poured forth like a torrent, and clothed in the most beautiful and persuasive language. The graceful gestures of the orator, his fine and venerable figure, interesting countenance, and locks 'white as wool,' formed a *tout ensemble* that riveted me to the chair with admiration.

"His delirium, if it may be so called, lasted nearly half an hour, when it was interrupted by one of the family entering the room. He stopped instantly, with a word half-finished on his lips, and sat down in great confusion—apologized for his strange behavior, and entirely dropped the subject. Mr. Dickinson was an elegant speaker, and one of the most accomplished scholars that our country has produced ; but, perhaps, he never pronounced a speech so eloquent, so chaste, and so beautiful, as that which he delivered before me as stated. It was his *soul* rather than his person that acted on the occasion, and a *master-spirit* it was.* The argument was in favor of a repeal of the Judiciary act."

Prominent among the few negative votes to the Declaration was that

* It cannot reasonably be charged, or suspected, that this was a case of simulation on the part of Mr. Dickinson. Conceding Mr. Niles as a credible and reliable witness, then indeed, a "master-spirit" must have controlled this great statesman of the Revolution on this notable occasion. Mr. Niles had all his life mingled with the great orators of our country, and must have been familiar with their forensic efforts, and yet declares that he "never heard a discourse that was comparable to this speech."

Such an exhibition serves to remind us of the experiences recorded in the Bible—"the gift of tongues," "spiritual gifts," which the Rev. Drs. McClintock and Strong, in their *Cyclopedia of Religious Literature*, pronounce as "utterances of a spiritual kind ;" or, as Smith, in his *Dictionary of the Bible*, defines spiritual gifts as "a distinctly linguistic power."

Whatever may be the definition of this power, as God is the same yesterday, to-day and forever, and both He and His laws alike unchangeable, we may very properly conclude, that what was permissible in the days of pentecost, when men began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance, was permissible with John Dickinson, and also with trance-speakers of modern times.

of Joseph Galloway, also of the Pennsylvania delegation, who had long filled a conspicuous position in the affairs of that Colony. After opposing Independence, and retiring from Congress, he became a Tory, and went to England. An autograph document with his signature, August 7, 1757, is included in the collection.

Catalogue of autographs of the Signers of the Constitution, belonging to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin :

NEW HAMPSHIRE DELEGATION.

1. JOHN LANGDON, A. L. S., October 20, 1809, three pages, in good condition.
2. NICHOLAS GILMAN, A. L. S., February 9, 1791, one page, in good condition.

MASSACHUSETTS DELEGATION.

3. NATHANIEL GORHAM, A. L. S., May 26, 1791, one page, in good condition.
4. RUFUS KING, A. L. S., September 20, 1822, one page, in good condition.

CONNECTICUT DELEGATION.

5. WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON, A. L. S., August 25, 1772, one page, in good condition.
6. ROGER SHERMAN, A. L. S., August 28, 1787, one page, in good condition.

NEW YORK DELEGATION.

7. ALEXANDER HAMILTON, A. L. S., October 7, 1794, one page, in good condition.

NEW JERSEY DELEGATION.

8. WILLIAM LIVINGSTON, A. L. S., June 4, 1784, one page, in good condition.
9. DAVID BREARLEY, A. L. S., May 21, 1783, two pages, in good condition.
10. JONATHAN DAYTON, A. L. S., September 26, 1808, one page, in good condition.

11. WILLIAM PATERSON, A. L. S., November 29, 1783, one page, in good condition.

PENNSYLVANIA DELEGATION.

12. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, A. L. S., January 1, 1779, one page, in good condition.

13. THOMAS MIFFLIN, A. L. S., March 30, 1787, one page, in good condition.

14. ROBERT MORRIS, A. L. S., December 21, 1786, one page, in good condition.

15. GEORGE CLYMER, A. L. S., January 7, 1799, one page, in good condition.

16. THOMAS FITZSIMMONS, A. L. S., May 13, 1786, one page, in good condition.

17. JARED INGERSOLL, A. L. S., January 27, 1789, one page, in good condition.

18. JAMES WILSON, A. L. S., June 29, 1792, two pages, in good condition.

19. GOUVERNEUR MORRIS, A. L. S., December 23, 1805, one page, in good condition.

DELAWARE DELEGATION.

20. GEORGE READ, A. L. S., June 10, 1787, one page, in good condition.

21. GUNNING BEDFORD, A. L. S., February 3, 1810, two pages, in good condition.

22. JOHN DICKINSON, A. L. S., August 4, 1788, one page, in good condition. It is addressed to Dr. Rush, tendering his "heartiest congratulations on the adoption by the eleventh State," of the new Constitution.

23. RICHARD BASSETT, A. L. S., January 1, 1811, one page, in good condition.

24. JACOB BROOM, A. L. S., May 16, 1807, one page, in good condition.

MARYLAND DELEGATION.

25. JAMES McHENRY, A. L. S., March 10, 1780, two pages, in good condition.

26. DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER, A. L. S., December 12, 1785 one page, in good condition.

27. DANIEL CARROLL, A. L. S., August 16, 1783, one page, in good condition.

VIRGINIA DELEGATION.

28. JOHN BLAIR, A. L. S., March 20, 1787, two pages, in good condition.

29. JAMES MADISON, A. L. S., February 22, 1823, one page, in good condition.

30. GEORGE WASHINGTON, A. L. S., August 28, 1796, one page, in good condition—returning thanks for a Fourth of July oration.

NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATION.

31. WILLIAM BLOUNT, A. L. S., July 5, 1797, one page, in good condition. This letter is interesting, as referring to his impeachment and expulsion from the United States Senate, apparently addressed to some friend in Tennessee, where he resided :

“In a few days,” he writes, “you will see published, by order of Congress, a letter said to have been written by me to James Carey. It makes a damnable fuss here. I hope, however, the people upon the Western Waters will see nothing but good in it, for so I intended it—especially for Tennessee. When I shall be in Tennessee is uncertain ; but come when I will, I trust they will view that particular act as well-intended, as all my political conduct ever has been towards them.

“I leave Philadelphia in a few hours, probably not to return to it shortly. Allison is *incog*. Nothing is done for you. You had best look to yourself. I suspect the Natchez will not now suit you. Byers is a rascal.”

32. RICHARD DOBBS SPAIGHT, A. L. S., February 25, 1794, one page, in good condition.

33. HUGH WILLIAMSON, A. L. S., August 4, 1778, one page, in good condition.

SOUTH CAROLINA DELEGATION.

34. JOHN RUTLEDGE, A. L. S., April 18, 1778, one page, an introduction, in good condition.

35. CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY, A. L. S., March 16, 1815, three pages, in good condition.

36. CHARLES PINCKNEY, A. L. S., no date (but written in 1807), three pages, in good condition.

37. PIERCE BUTLER, A. L. S., January 15, 1808, two pages, in good condition.

GEORGIA DELEGATION.

38. WILLIAM FEW, A. L. S., January 9, 1790, one page, in good condition.

39. ABRAHAM BALDWIN, A. L. S., January 26, 1791, one page, in good condition.

Also an A. L. S. of Col. WILLIAM JACKSON, November 2, 1797, the Secretary of the Convention, who attested the Constitution, one page, in good condition.

This enumeration of the sets of the Signers of the Declaration and of the Constitution, possessed by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, presents a fine array of autographs in their line of collection, exceeded in only a few instances in the Declaration series; while the Signers of the Constitution are represented by full autograph letters in every instance, and four were written in the year the Constitution was formed, 1787.

A subject so interesting warrants a reference to similar collections extant, so far as the best attainable information, derived from the principal autograph collectors of the country, will enable us to describe them. The known full sets of the Signers of the Declaration are only twenty-two, and from the rarity of several of the autographs, the number can never be very much increased, if at all.

In noticing these several collections, it is necessary to establish some rules of precedence. On the whole, it would appear most proper to fix upon the number of full autograph letters in a collection; though their character and condition—whether pretty uniformly in folio or quarto size—and the extent and value of their illustrations, should have their influence in determining their relative standing. A few collectors have made an interesting consideration of enhanced interest and value, of letters bearing date in the Declaration year, 1776.

In view of the almost insurmountable difficulties in making a com-

plete collection of the Signers of the Declaration, it is not a little singular that more sets of the Signers of the Constitution have not been brought together. The Declaration Signers number fifty-six—those of the Constitution only thirty-nine; so there are only about two-thirds as many of the latter as of the former, and none of them so practically unobtainable as are several of the Signers of the Declaration. While the statistics show twenty-two sets of the Declaration Signers, but nineteen full sets of the Constitution Signers have as yet been brought together.

OTHER COLLECTIONS OF DECLARATION SIGNERS.

I.—DR. THOMAS ADDIS EMMET, New York. His best set—for he has four—takes precedence by common consent. It includes fifty-four full autograph letters of the fifty-six Signers, the only exceptions being very fine specimens of autograph documents signed of both Hart and Gwinnett. Of Gwinnett, no known full letter is extant. Of the fifty-six autographs of the set, fifty-one pertain to the Revolutionary period—only Morton, Wythe, and Heyward not ranking as such, while Hart and Gwinnett are documents; and of these fifty-one Revolutionary letters, thirty-one were written during 1776, a number of them referring to the great Declaration. Four of the letters bear date in the Declaration month of that year,—Clark's, July 14th; F. L. Lee's, the 16th; Wilson's, the 25th; and Hewes, the 28th.

The pre-eminent specimen of the collection, which stands unmatched and unapproachable, is the unquestioned genuine Lynch letter, addressed to Gen. Washington, July 5, 1777, having the General's endorsement on the back in his well-known handwriting, obtained from the Washington Papers by Dr. Sprague, who conveyed it to Dr. Emmet in an exchange of autographs, practically costing the latter some seven hundred dollars. The next great rarity of the set is a full Morton letter, formerly of Col. Myers' collection, of which only one other full letter of that Signer is known to exist, that of Mr. Stauffer, and an unsigned one in the Raffles' set. Full letters of Heyward and Middleton also grace the collection.

This fine set was originally placed in what is now Dr. Emmet's second collection, so largely illustrated as to extend to twenty bound

volumes ; but Dr. Emmet, on further thought, fearing the valuable autographs composing it would be measurably lost sight of while scattered among such a profusion of illustrative matter, concluded to replace it with a less important set, and thus be enabled to give to his best collection of the Signers a more conspicuous exhibition, which it so richly deserves, illustrating it with suitable portrait engravings, short printed sketches of the several Signers, and *fac-similes* of autographs, etc. It is not yet bound, awaiting other possible changes for the better.

To give some idea of the cost of such indulgences : “In one way or another,” writes Dr. Emmet, “I have spent some twenty-five thousand dollars on the set, and have not yet gotten it to my satisfaction.” This was written before he had detached this best set from the multitudinous collection of illustrations in the twenty volumes now comprising the second set, and this estimate of cost includes those numerous and interesting illustrations. All will agree that the right man undertook this herculean labor, and has never faltered for a moment in its prosecution.

But Dr. Emmet’s four full sets of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and his collection of the Signers of the Constitution, are by no means the only autograph groupings he has made. His tastes, it will be seen, lead him to profusely and tastefully illustrate them all. His entire collection numbers fifty-three volumes, divided into the following groups or series :

1. The best set of Signers of the Declaration of Independence, unbound, at least one volume.
2. His second set of Signers, already described, twenty volumes.
3. The Continental Congress, 1774–1789, of whose membership Dr. Emmet has autographs of over three hundred and sixty ; illustrated by two hundred and thirty-eight portraits, having had several specially made for this purpose—seventy-two of the whole number are believed to be without likenesses. This group includes his third set of the Signers. Dr. Emmet has been many years engaged on this collection—gathering materials for a biographical sketch of each member, to be printed especially for this series ; and when thus completed, it will embrace six volumes, a wonderful collection, including a large amount of American biography to be found nowhere else.

4. The fourth set of the Signers is nicely arranged with Sanderson's *Lives of the Signers*, of which Dr. Emmet has one of the few *large paper* copies, in eight volumes, fully illustrated.

5. The Signers of the Constitution, already adverted to, in one volume.

6. The Albany Congress of 1754, twenty-five members, representing seven Colonies, in one volume. The printed illustrative matter is from the second volume of *Documentary History of New York*, and from Sir William Johnson's papers, giving an account of that Congress.

7. The Stamp Act Congress, 1765, twenty-three members, representing nine Colonies, one volume. The printed matter has been taken from Hughes' account in the second volume of Hazard's *Register*, originally appearing in Almon's *Prior Documents*, p. 45, *et seq.*, and includes the credentials and journals.

8. The first Continental Congress, 1774, fifty-two members, representing twelve Colonies, one volume. With this set of autographs of the delegates, Henry Armitt Brown's oration on the one hundredth anniversary of the meeting of this Congress, was inlaid, with the addition of specially printed matter appropriate to the collection.

9. Signers of the Articles of Confederation, 1778, forty-one autographs, representing thirteen Colonies, one volume.

10. The Generals of the Revolution, both Continental and State, eighty-six specimens. This collection has been brought together with the greatest care, so that there is scarcely an autograph which is not of especial historical value. Griswold's *Washington and his Generals*, in two volumes, has been brought into requisition for this group, all inlaid, and extended to eight folio volumes, illustrated with portraits, newspapers of the day, and three hundred and forty-one autographs.

11. Presidents of the Old Congress, and Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the United States, nearly fifty fine specimens, one volume. Dr. Emmet wrote, and had printed for this collection, a sketch of each President of Congress, etc., on a single page, to face the autograph and engraving.

12. Paper money issued by the Colonies, about two thousand specimens, all inlaid, with a printed account of each issue, extended to three volumes.

13. Paper money issued by Congress. Samuel Breck's *Historical Sketch of Paper Money*, 1843, as republished in 1863, with an appendix giving in full the issues and denominations, used as the basis for this collection, inlaid to folio size, and illustrated, one volume.

All these volumes have special title-pages printed for them, with printed text, head and tail pieces.

Dr. Emmet was born near Charlottesville, Virginia, May 29, 1828. His father, John P. Emmet, was then, and for a period of nineteen years, Professor of Chemistry and Natural History in the University of Virginia. Dr. Emmet's grandfather, Thomas Addis Emmet, with his famous brother, Robert Emmet, were noted leaders in the movements of the "United Irishmen" in 1798; and again in 1803, Robert, the younger, losing his young life in the heroic effort to obtain freedom for his distracted country. Thomas Addis Emmet, the patriot leader, was long imprisoned; but was finally liberated, settled in New York City in 1804, where in the ensuing twenty-three years he rose to great eminence at the bar.

While Dr. Emmet has long been ranked among the ablest members of the medical profession in New York City, it is especially as an autograph collector that he stands pre-eminent. He began the collection of autographs and illustration of books at the early age of twelve, and commenced the formation of his first set of the Signers about 1860, since which he has prosecuted the collection of American autographs with unusual ardor and remarkable success.

During the past twenty-five years, probably more autographs of the Signers have passed through his hands than those of any one else in the country; and while he has been able to improve his own collections, he has supplied other collectors with more than a single specimen of all the Signers, save perhaps those of Lynch and Gwinnett. He has thus proved himself a public benefactor—well worthy of the high honor Mr. Burns designed to ascribe, when referring to him as "*the Premier American Autographer*."

II.—SIMON GRATZ, of Philadelphia. In 1856, at the age of seventeen, an accidental search among an accumulation of family papers in his native city of Philadelphia, gave Mr. Gratz a taste for gathering autographs, which he has prosecuted for thirty years with rare discrimination and success. Mr. Burns, in the *Antiquarian*, August, 1870,

stated that the collection of Mr. Gratz of the Signers then lacked but two autographs, and that it was then regarded as "a fine series." That gap has long since been filled, and the whole set greatly improved. It has now fifty-three full autograph letters in quarto or folio size—the other three are Morton, a folio autograph document signed ; Gwinnett, a very fine folio autograph document signed, and Lynch, a cut signature. It nearly equals Dr. Emmet's best set in the number of 1776 letters, having twenty-seven—one of which, that of Wilson, was written on the memorable 4th of July in that year ; and a Hancock letter of July 5th, 1776, covering a copy of the Declaration to one of the States.

All the specimens are choice both as regards matter and condition. It is largely illustrated with portraits and views, as yet kept loose in scrap-books for further possible improvement. No pains nor expense has been spared to improve its character.

Mr. Gratz needs only a Lynch to complete a second set, which is used in his series of the old Congress of 1774–1789. This group of the old Congress lacks but a few names of being complete. A duplicate of Lynch he once possessed, but spared it to a fellow collector to round out his set.

In addition to the names contained in this series of the old Congressmen, Mr. Gratz has complete sets of A. L. S. of the Presidents, and Presidents *pro tempore* of the Continental Congress, the Signers of the articles of Confederation, the Congress of 1774, excepting Boerum, the members of the Annapolis Convention, and the members of the Federal Convention. His series of the Generals of the Revolution is complete, and is composed entirely of A. L. S., (many of them being addressed to Gen. Washington), with the exception of Baron de Woedtke, which is L. S. 4to, and John Whitcomb, A. D. S., folio. He also has complete sets of the Albany Convention of 1754, the Stamp Act Congress of 1765, the Hartford Convention, the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Cabinet officers, Bishops of the Episcopal Church, complete to 1877, moderators of the Presbyterian General Assembly, complete to 1882, Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, Speakers of the House of Representatives, and Presidents *pro tem.* of the United States Senate.

His collection of names of the Colonial period embraces most of the

Royal Governors, and of the persons who were prominent, on either side, in the French and Indian wars.

He has letters of nearly all the Colonels, and noted officers of lower rank, of the Continental Army, 1775 to 1783, most of the French officers who served during the Revolutionary war, and of the Generals, and many of the lesser officers, who served on the British side.

His series of letters and MSS. of Washington contain specimens of the handwriting of "the Father of his country" from boyhood to the year of his death; as well as letters of his mother, Mary Washington, and of Martha, his wife, his brother, Lawrence, etc., etc. The total number of Washington letters in the collection is eighty-eight, aside from many A. D. S. and MS. documents.

The rest of the American portion of the large collection of Mr. Gratz covers a wide field, including naval officers, from the Revolutionary period to the close of the civil war; Generals and officers of the war of 1812, the Mexican war, and the Civil war; literary characters, from John Eliot, of "Indian Bible" fame, and William Hubbard, the historian of the New England Indian wars, to the writers of the present day; United States Senators, Governors, artists, actors, scientists, Washington's Aides-de-camp, and a remarkably full series of the American clergy, commencing with the earliest Colonial names, etc., etc.

His foreign collection numbers about ten thousand letters and documents, and embraces series of the European Emperors, Kings, and Queens, the poets and prose writers of Great Britain and Continental Europe, and of the most noted warriors, statesmen, philosophers, artists, composers, men of science, etc., etc., who flourished during the last four centuries. Most of the names are represented by A. L. S.—among the rarer of which may be mentioned those of Mary, Queen of Scots, Erasmus of Rotterdam, Macchiavelli, Saint Vincent de Paul, Ninon de Lenclos, Massillon, Spinola, Catherine de Parthenay, the Huguenot heroine, Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Stafford, beheaded on Tower Hill, the first Duke of Buckingham, assassinated by Felton, and Richard Bentley, the great classical scholar; the composers, Mozart, Handel, and Bach; the painters, Rubens, Poussin, and Sir Joshua Reynolds; the philosophers and astronomers, Galileo, Kepler, Hevelius, Sir Isaac Newton, Robert Boyle, and Halley; the reformers,

Luther, Calvin, Melancthon, Brentz, Bullinger, and Guillaume Farel; the French revolutionists, Robespierre and Marat; the poets and prose-writers, Robert Burns, Richard Baxter, Byron, Charlotte Brontë, Madame D'Arblay, Edward Gibbon, John Keats, John Locke, Alexander Pope, Tobias Smollett, Percy B. Shelley, Jonathan Swift, Jeremy Taylor, and Sir Henry Wotton.

As a judge of the genuineness of American autographs, particularly of the Signers, Mr. Gratz stands unrivaled.

III.—FERDINAND J. DREER, of Philadelphia. Born in that city, March 2, 1812. Mr. Dreer was for many years laboriously engaged as an assayer and manufacturer of gold ware, retiring from active business in 1862. At twenty-two he broke down from over-work, and has ever since been in feeble health; yet since he commenced his autograph gatherings, about 1849, he has found pleasant employment in collecting, repairing and arranging his thousands of rare letters of both hemispheres, and illustrating his books and manuscripts, giving occupation to both body and mind, and, as he believes, prolonging his days.

Mr. Dreer's set of the Signers, like the collection of Mr. Gratz, numbers fifty-three full autograph letters. It has been selected and improved with great care and expense. The three specimens of the set not A. L. S., are Morton, A. D. S., Gwinnett, D. S., and Lynch, a cut signature. Next to the sets of Dr. Emmet and Mr. Gratz, Mr. Dreer's is the strongest extant in 1776 letters, having twenty-one specimens, no less than seven of which were written during the month of July of that year—Rutledge on the 1st, Clark on the immortal 4th, John Adams on the 5th, Hancock on the 9th and 24th, Hewes on the 24th, and Thornton on the 27th. The Adams letter came from Mr. Tefft's incomplete set, and is noticed in Dr. Gilman's paper on the Tefft autographs.

Such of these as needed it were carefully repaired, and are kept in cases, without yet having determined their final grouping. Mr. Dreer has fifty-one letters and signed documents towards a second set, and forty towards a third.

His collection of the Signers of the Constitution, limited to those who actually signed the document, are all A. L. S., and is a very fine one.

Besides these, Mr. Dreer has no less than seventy original letters of

Washington, from the earliest date to the time of his death, remarkably complete and interesting—undoubtedly the largest accumulation of Washington letters extant next to that of Mr. Gratz, outside of the Washington papers preserved by the Government. He has also over forty letters of William Penn and family ; a large number of Franklin ; no less than thirty of Jefferson ; and eleven of Edward Rutledge, written between 1792 and 1797. These Washington, Penn, and Franklin letters are exclusive of those utilized in various book illustrations.

In addition to his own varied acquisitions, Mr. Dreer obtained, some thirty years since, the rich collection of the late Robert Gilmor, of Baltimore—including his set of autographs of the Signers, and his especially rich array of foreign autographs, comprising the most celebrated sovereigns of Europe, with all the most distinguished generals, naval commanders, statesmen, reformers, authors, artists, scientists, composers, musicians, inventors, astronomers, explorers and travelers.

Among the set of musicians, are Handel, Hayden, Beethoven, Mozart, and Bach—all A. L. S. ; astronomers, Galileo, Kepler, the elder Herschel, son and daughter, all A. L. S. ; reformers, Calvin, Luther, Melancthon, and De Beza, fine A. L. S. : also four of Cowper, four of Pope, four of Burns, two of Gray, and others of Sir Christopher Wren, Thomson, Gay, Byron, Shelley, Campbell, and Leigh Hunt's original of Abou Ben Adhem ; James Ist, of England ; Henry VIIth ; Henry IVth, of France ; and Erasmus of Rotterdam.

In 1857, Wm. Brotherhead wrote, and privately printed, an edition of twenty-five copies of a visit to Mr. Dreer's autograph collection. It is in small folio size ; and three pages of the fifteen descriptive of all the groupings, are devoted to the American portion, while twelve are given to the foreign. It is a very interesting exhibition of a noble gathering of autographs, sparkling with gems of many a noted man and woman of both continents.

Many patient years has Mr. Dreer spent in arranging, repairing and pressing his autographs, and adding fly leaves for their protection. He devotes more hours to these interesting labors than he ever did to the acquisition of wealth. His avarice is limited to the accumulation of autographs, and grouping and improving them for noble and useful purposes. Though in feeble health, he declares that his love for col-

lecting and repairing autographs, and illustrating books has added largely to his happiness as well as augmenting his days.

IV.—The late Prof. EDWARD H. LEFFINGWELL, son of William and Sally Maria Beers Leffingwell, was born in New Haven, April 15, 1803. He was graduated from Yale College in 1822, and two years later was graduated in medicine. In 1825, he went to Lima, South America, remaining there three years in the practice of his profession, when he removed to Lambayque, in Northern Peru, where he resided six years. Returning to the United States in 1834, he received the appointment of Professor of Chemistry and Natural History in the University of Missouri ; and, in 1836, he visited Buenos Ayres, and the next year returning to his native country, located awhile at Brunswick, Maine, with a view of more thoroughly prosecuting the study of physical science, under the direction of Prof. Parker Cleveland, of Bowdoin College. Returning to St. Louis, he resumed his chair in the University ; and after nearly nine years' connection with that institution, owing to ill-health, he resigned in 1852. He subsequently accepted the chair of Chemistry and Toxicology in the Medical College of Memphis, Tenn. ; but the condition of his health did not admit his long continuance there.

From 1855 to 1863, he resided in Boston ; after which he made his home in New Haven. He commenced his autograph collections upon his settlement in Boston, where he purchased, at a cost of some two thousand dollars, the fine set of the Signers made by Hon. Mellen Chamberlain, together with other commenced series, and many foreign autographs. This set of the Signers are all in folio size, save that of Middleton, which is a quarto. Mr. Burns pronounces it "a fine" one. In 1857, it lacked only the autograph of Paca, which was soon after supplied. It numbers fifty-one A. L. S. ; of the remaining five, Hart and Morton are A. D. S. ; Hopkins, L. S. ; Gwinnett, D. S., and Lynch, a single signature. The set has several 1776 letters, and is unbound, preserved in cases, and copiously illustrated with portraits and engravings, biographical and historical cuttings.

Besides his full set of the Declaration Signers, he gathered also an incomplete set, and two full collections of the Signers of the Constitution ; he also brought together a set of the Generals of the Revolution ; Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the United States from Washington

to Buchanan inclusive, with the heads of departments, Judges of the Supreme Court, Ministers to Foreign Courts; Protestant Episcopal Bishops, from Seabury to Green, with many eminent American clergymen and literary characters. He had also a fine set of English sovereigns from Henry IV., with two exceptions, to Queen Victoria; and of the English Premiers, from 1754 to Lord Beaconsfield, with a single exception. He had also autographs of Shakespeare, it is said, but which is presumably doubtful, of Bacon, Cromwell, Raleigh, Lady Jane Gray, Newton, Cowper, Dryden, Goldsmith, Burns, Byron, and other English notabilities, together with many illustrious names of French royalty and nobility, and of other portions of Continental Europe.

Professor Leffingwell died at New Haven, June 25, 1888, in his eighty-sixth year, leaving his noble collection of autographs to his niece, Miss Mary Matilda Leffingwell, of that city.

V.—DR. JOHN S. H. FOGG, Boston, Mass. Dr. Fogg was born in Eliot, York County, Maine, May 21, 1826, and commenced picking up autographs about the time of his graduation from college, in 1846, making quite a collection of old commissions, etc. He recommenced their gathering in 1858, and for a year or two collected quite a goodly number.

In 1873, he was prostrated by paralysis, and has ever since been confined to his room, a constant sufferer. Recovering somewhat from this attack, he turned his attention, in 1875, to forming a set of the Signers, of which he already had a few specimens. He consummated the collection in 1881—a wonderfully short period for such a difficult accomplishment. Many of these specimens he has since very materially improved.

Mr. Burns declares it “really a fine set,” which its composition proves. It is made up of fifty A. L. S.; Heyward and Middleton, L. S.; Hart, Morton, and Gwinnett, D. S.; and Lynch, a cut signature. It presents an unusually strong array of letters written during the Revolutionary period, numbering forty-five A. L. S., and two others, L. S.; of which nineteen were written in Independence year, 1776—three in July, Witherspoon’s the 3d, Clark’s the 9th, and Hopkinson’s the 23d. Such letters as needed it have been thoroughly repaired; all are mounted on a fly in a wrapper, and the illustrations are mounted in

the same wrapper. These illustrations consist of engravings or etchings of all the Signers save Morton ; of some there are several different likenesses, together with Brotherhead's *fac-similes* and views. As yet they are unbound, awaiting still further possible improvement.

Dr. Fogg lacks but two, Howard and Barnes, of a complete set of the Albany Congress of 1754, and but two, Murdock and Lynch, Sr., of a full set of the Stamp Act Congress, 1765. He has also a second collection of the Declaration Signers, lacking Lynch only, included in his series of the Old Congress, 1774-'89, which wants but thirty-five of the whole number of about three hundred and ninety-five.

Besides his set of the Signers of the Constitution, he has a collection of the members of the Annapolis Convention of 1786 ; the Colonial and State Governors of Massachusetts ; members of the famous Hartford Convention ; all of the thirty-eight Major-Generals of the Revolution, and all save eight of the ninety Brigadier-Generals ; Washington's Aids, with two exceptions ; Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the United States, with cabinet officers—each Administration by itself. In all these series no letter plays a double part ; and all the series are well illustrated with engravings.

"Here I am," writes Dr. Fogg, "sitting in my chair, utterly helpless, and often distracted with pain, as I have been for more than thirteen years. I don't know how I could make life tolerable were it not for the pleasure these autographs afford me. I take comfort in collecting, arranging and repairing them, associated with my companion, whose tastes in these directions are in harmony with mine ; for we work together in repairing old letters, matching the paper used, imitating water marks, texture, color, and other particulars—mounting them to a uniform size, and inlaying small portraits to the same dimension. Mrs. Fogg in all these labors, is equally enthusiastic with me. Thus, you see, I have some blessings in my cup of afflictions, and they are of a magnitude sufficient to reconcile me to my lot, if anything could do it. I have now some four or five thousand or more autographs altogether."

VI.—STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Madison, Wis. This collection has been some twenty-five years in accumulating—originating, in 1856, in a donation of autographs of Samuel Adams, Floyd, Lewis,

Robert Morris, McKean, R. H. Lee, Jefferson, as well as R. R. Livingston, and Charles Thomson, from the late Hon. Henry S. Randall. It was some time thereafter before the idea of completing a full set was resolved on, and the full quota was made up in 1881, with subsequent improvements. While the collection is not strong in historical documents of the Revolution, it takes high rank in embracing so many full autograph letters—fifty A. L. S.; Hart, A. D. S.; Morton, Heyward, Middleton, and Gwinnett, D. S.; and Lynch, an inlaid cut signature. It is illustrated with one or more engravings or etchings of all the Signers save Morton, with Brotherhead's views and *fac-similes*, and other appropriate matter.

The gift of the Hon. H. S. Randall of one hundred American autographs to the Society in 1856, laid the foundation of other series besides that of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. We have now a full set of the thirty-nine Signers of the Constitution, including their Secretary, William Jackson, all A. L. S., with appropriate illustrations; a nearly complete set of the Presidents of the Old Congress, and Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the United States, together with a portion of the Generals of the Revolution, and the Governors of Wisconsin. These constitute the autograph collections proper of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

VII.—MR. CHARLES ROBERTS, of Philadelphia. His ancestors migrated from Wales to Pennsylvania about 1695. Mr. Roberts was born in Philadelphia in 1846, and, at the age of fourteen, entered Haverford College, and while there commenced gathering autographs in a small way. After graduating, he added little to his collections until about the time of the Centennial. He was an original member of the Committee of One Hundred, a city reformatory body who did good work in the interests of the people, and is serving his third term in the Common Council. He was for many years a partner in one of the largest glass manufacturing establishments in the country, from which he retired in 1885. He is a member of the council of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, one of the managers of Haverford College, and of several charitable institutions. He finds time to indulge in the fascinating pursuit of gathering and arranging autographs. He had made a fine collection of the Signers, lacking Lynch only, with other series, when he recently purchased the entire collection, one of

the best in the country, gathered by the late Robert C. Davis, of Philadelphia, which not only enabled him to complete and improve his own set, but to place it considerably higher in rank than that occupied by Mr. Davis' collection. As now improved, Mr. Roberts' set of the Signers embraces forty-nine A. L. S. ; Hart, Morton, and Heyward, A. D. S. ; Livingston, L. S. ; Middleton and Gwinnett, D. S. ; and Lynch, a fine cut signature which came from Mr. Tefft to the late Mr. Davis. Thirty-six of the number were written during the Revolutionary period, of which those of Clark, Franklin, R. Morris, Wilson, and Hewes were penned during 1776.

In the estimation of some of our best autograph judges, Mr. Roberts' set of the Signers, as now improved, takes very high rank on account of the fine condition and beauty of many of the rare specimens, such as that of Lyman Hall, which is a superb folio; and that of Joseph Hewes, which is a six page A. L. S., dated Philadelphia, July 8th, 1776, in which he asks, "What has become of my friend Hooper?" . . . My friend Penn came time enough to give his vote for independence," etc.

Mr. Roberts' other series deserve special notice. He has two full sets of the Signers of the Constitution, one of them including all who were chosen, and at any time attended, but failed to avail themselves of the opportunity of signing that instrument; all the Generals of the Revolution, save Moore and de Borré; a full set of the Presidents and their Cabinets, together with the Vice-Presidents, Chief Justices and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, nearly complete; and only wanting Lynch of a second set of the Signers, which go to make up the series of members of the old Congress, 1774-'89.

VIII.—CHARLES C. JONES, Jr., LL.D., Augusta, Georgia. It is very fitting that Col. Jones should have made up a set of the Signers. Descending from a prominent Revolutionary family of his State, he was born at Savannah, October 28, 1831. With a good education, he is well equipped for his profession, and for an antiquary and historian as well—taking the very front rank, in these particulars, of his fellow

* This would imply, notwithstanding his biographers assert that Hooper voted for the Declaration, that he was absent at the time of the vote on July 2d, and its proclamation July 4th; but, approving the measure, subsequently signed this great charter of American freedom.



citizens of Georgia, and of the Southern States. Aside from his numerous historical, antiquarian, and military addresses and brochures, in pamphlet form, his more substantial works, *Historical Sketch of Chatham Artillery*, 1867; *Historical Sketch of To-mo-chi-chi, Mico of the Yamacraws*, 1868; *Antiquities of the Southern Tribes*, 1873; *Siege of Savannah*, 1874; *Dead Towns of Georgia*, 1878; *History of Georgia*, in 2 vols., 1883, with two more in preparation, and *Sketch of Maj. John Habersham*, 1886, have deservedly given him a high reputation.

In 1866, he commenced collecting his first set of the Signers, completing it in 1880, though improvements have been subsequently made. This collection, which is really a very fine one, consists of forty-nine full letters, with Stockton and Gwinnett, A. D. S.—both remarkably fine specimens; Livingston, L. S.; Morton, Heyward, and Middleton, D. S.; and Lynch the usual cut signature. Thornton, Whipple, and Hewes are 1776 letters; while those of Hancock, Ellery, Wolcott, Lewis, Taylor, Ross, Rodney, Paca, Stone, Wythe, Harrison, Nelson, Hooper, Penn, Hall and Walton, sixteen in number, were written during the Revolutionary period, that of Hall in 1777, on public affairs and of the highest interest. This series is inlaid on Whatman paper, and illustrated with the best engraved portraits extant, and views of residences, etc., and is neatly bound in two volumes, size of page, 16 by 12½ inches.

While a student at law in London, Mr. Lynch wrote his name on the title-pages of books he purchased, sometimes T. Lynch, Jun^r., and at other times simply "Lynch." Col. Jones has had the good fortune to obtain one of the former and three of the latter from a lineal descendant of one of the sisters of the Signer, who inherited a portion of his library, and all are genuine beyond a question. The T. Lynch, Jun^r., signature, accompanied by one of the others, represents the Signer in Col. Jones' best set of the Signers, another in his second set, while the other fills its place in his set of the Old Congress. Thus all are placed in his collections.

Col. Jones has a full set of the Signers of the Constitution, also of the Presidents of the Continental Congress, and of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the United States, nearly all A. L. S., inlaid, illustrated, and bound.

A complete set of the Chief Justices and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, and Attorneys-General of the United States, is also inlaid, illustrated and bound.

A complete set of the Colonial and the State Governors of Georgia, inlaid, illustrated and bound.

A complete set of the Signers of the Confederate Constitution, all A. L. S., inlaid, illustrated and bound.

His series of members of the Continental Congress is in an advanced condition, including a "Lynch," and lacking only twenty-nine of completion; his series of Confederate autographs is also well advanced, and will embrace five volumes. He also has over two hundred volumes of printed books, privately illustrated with maps, views, autographs, and portraits, all inlaid and handsomely bound, while his extensive archæological collection embraces nearly 20,000 objects.

IX.—MRS. DAVID J. COHEN, Baltimore. This collection was formed by the late Dr. Joshua I. Cohen, of that city—commenced in 1836, and completed in 1850. A second set was lacking only two names at the close of 1870. Dr. Cohen passing away, his autographs came into the possession of his sister-in-law, the present owner. The full collection of the Signers consists of forty-nine A. L. S., with Thornton, Livingston, Morton, Wythe, Middleton and Gwinnett, D. S., and Lynch, as usual, a signature only. Among the rarities may be mentioned the full letters of Sherman, Stockton, Hart and Heyward. The set is unbound, preserved in cases, without illustrations.

X.—HON. JOHN BOYD THACHER, formerly State Senator, and Mayor of Albany, after many years' efforts, has gotten together a full set of the autographs of the Signers. Mr. E. E. Sprague, of New York, son of Rev. Dr. Sprague, became possessed of one of the three full sets made by his father, and which was completed, as Hon. Mellen Chamberlain believes, as early as 1848. It consisted of forty A. L. S., the rest being made up of less valuable specimens; but among them the Lynch and Gwinnett being both documents signed. The Lynch signature is attached to a conveyance of land made in 1779, at Charleston—a counterpart to Mr. Lynch's deed of March in that year in the late Col. Myers' collection, from which was detached a receipt which represents Lynch in the collection of the Pennsylvania Historical Society. Mr. Thacher and Mr. E. E. Sprague were early boy friends,

and in that way apparently, Mr. Thacher formed his taste for autographs; and recently, an opportunity occurring, he purchased Mr. Sprague's entire collection, and has thus been enabled to complete and enrich his set. As it now stands, it numbers forty-eight A. L. S.; with Hart, Morton, Stone, and Gwinnett, A. D. S.; Hopkins, L. S.; and S. Adams, Heyward, and Lynch, D. S. Of these, five are 1776 letters—Williams, Witherspoon, Franklin, R. H. Lee, and Wythe. This set has some special merits—the R. H. Lee letter, and those of Lewis, Witherspoon, and Chase, were addressed to Gen. Washington, and of course were of the rich selection made by Rev. Dr. Sprague from the Washington Papers; the Walton letter was written to Gen. Lincoln, complaining of his captivity; the Rush letter, penned immediately after the death of Franklin, refers to the deathbed scene of that great patriot and philosopher.

This collection, yet unbound, is partially illustrated, and Mr. Thacher is gathering additional illustrative material, and designs securing drawings of a unique set of plaster busts of the Signers made by a genius for the Centennial, but who failed to complete and place them upon the market.

Mr. Thacher has autographs of about two-thirds of the members of the Old Congress, 1774-'89, of which his duplicate Signers, fifty-three in number, form a part; and he has also a partial set of the Signers of the Constitution, and some of other American series.

XI.—PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Philadelphia. Some two years before the death of the Rev. Dr. Sprague, Dr. Emmet offered him \$50 each for the choice of certain specimens of his best set of the Signers, or \$25 each for the whole. Dr. Sprague replied that he had no idea that they could be worth any such sum; but he could not permit himself to think of parting with them, as nearly all of them had been gifts from friends, and the love of collecting, rather than dispersing, was still on him.

After thinking the matter over, however, he stated to Dr. Emmet that, as he had done so much more than any one else to perpetuate the memory of the Signers, his set should very properly be made the best—Dr. Sprague adding, that he ought not to be selfish, and kindly offered to exchange such specimens in his collection as would improve Dr. Emmet's, but would not consent to sell them. This resulted in

an exchange—Dr. Emmet taking the peerless Lynch autograph letter, a Heyward, a Middleton, and two others, promising to satisfactorily square the account before Christmas.

Dr. Sprague furnished fourteen autographs of the Signers, not the most valuable, and Dr. Emmet supplied a Lynch cut signature, and forty-one others, thus making a full set—some of these forty-two Dr. Emmet already possessed, while others he purchased for this special purpose. This collection was arranged with the fourth edition of Sanderson's *Lives of the Signers*, 1865, with portraits, views, and documents, extending the whole to three volumes, bound in half red levant morocco. Dr. Emmet expended for the autographs he especially purchased for the set, the inlaying, binding, etc., only three dollars short of \$700, which he regarded as practically the cost to him of the famous Lynch letter. The cut Lynch signature, which Dr. Emmet supplied for this set, was subsequently exchanged by Dr. Sprague with Col. Myers for a Lynch signature attached to a receipt; and Col. Myers having the deed with Lynch's autograph attached, from which the receipt was taken, disposed of the Lynch cut signature to some other collector.

This is the collection which has since passed into the possession of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, at a cost, it is understood, of two thousand dollars.

It is pronounced by Mr. Burns, and corroborated by others who have seen it, as "a good set." Among them is a very fine letter of Hart; and six of the letters, those of Carroll, Read, Stone, Harrison, Penn, and Hall, are addressed to Washington. Forty-eight are A. L. S., while Livingston and Middleton are A. D. S.; Hall, L. S.; Morton, Taylor and Gwinnett, D. S., and Heyward and Lynch are signatures only. That of Wolcott is the only one mentioned as written in 1776.

It is proper to explain about the Lynch signature, as it is not one of those cut from books. It would seem that Dr. Sprague obtained it from Col. T. Bailey Myers, as it has this indorsement written on the back: "The original deed from which this receipt is cut, executed by Thomas Lynch and wife, just prior to their sailing in a vessel, which was never heard of afterwards, for the restoration of his health, is in my collection. The signature, it will be seen, shows the feeble state of the writer.

T. BAILEY MYERS."

The receipt is for £10,000, S. C. currency, paid by Martin Savage to Thomas Lynch.

As the Society had perhaps half of the autographs of the Signers before this purchase, they expect, by the aid of these duplicates, at some future day, to improve the collection. The Society has no complete set of the Signers of the Constitution.

XII.—Dr. EMMET's second set. This collection consists of forty-four A. L. S.; Bartlett, Thornton, Hancock, Hopkins, Morton, Taylor, Rush, and Hall, A. D. S.; Hart and Middleton, L. S.; Gwinnett, D. S.; and Lynch, cut signature. The autograph document of Hancock, a very important historical one, bears date July 11, 1776; while thirty-one of the full letters were written during the Revolutionary period, of which six bear date during the Declaration year, besides Hart's L. S.

This excellent set is greatly enhanced by the elaborate extent of its illustrations. Dr. Emmet's patience and success in bringing together his illustrative matter is not merely remarkable, but is truly wonderful—greatly excelling any effort of the kind ever attempted. Taking the historical matter of Sanderson's *Lives of the Signers*, and the whole of Brotherhead's *Book of the Signers*, as the basis, all inlaid to folio size, Dr. Emmet has extended the work to twenty volumes. The illustrations are almost innumerable, including twelve hundred autographs, many valuable historical documents, old newspapers, original water-color portraits of the Signers, together with a large number of portraits of the Revolutionary period, many of which are now almost extinct, of persons mentioned in the papers or text, rare contemporaneous views of places, coats of arms of States, and many other appropriate illustrations, all inlaid by Trent on Whatman's drawing paper, of a uniform royal folio size. "When completed," says Mr. Burns, "it will be the grandest monument ever erected to the memory of the Signers by private hands; and on it no expense has been spared, and the print collections of both continents laid under heavy contributions."

Among the unique illustrations of this noble set of the Signers are two early printed broadsides of the Declaration. One must have been issued as early as July 5, 1776, as John Adams on that day inclosed a copy to a lady correspondent, the letter to whom, now in Mr. Dreer's

collection, is copied into Dr. Gilman's paper on the Tefft autographs. But the second one, which was sent out by order of Congress, January 18, 1777, to each of the States for a public record, also in printed form, is properly attested by their own signs manual, by President Hancock and Secretary Thomson. Both of these broadsides are about fifteen by eighteen inches in size.

XIII.—The late Col. THEODORUS BAILEY MYERS, of New York, descended from noble Revolutionary ancestry, and was born in that city, December 13th, 1821. After receiving a suitable education, he studied law, and was a member of the military staff of Govs. Wright and Bouck. He raised a company for the Mexican War, and on the breaking out of our Civil War he entered the 12th N. Y. regiment, and then served on Gen. Butler's staff as quartermaster, and subsequently on Gen. Wool's military staff. He was President of the Sixth Avenue R.R., and was a member of the American Geographical Society, and of the Union and Century Clubs. He was also a director in the Samaritan Home, the Institution for the Blind, and other humanitarian societies.

He began to value and collect historical documents when he came of age. His was "an excellent set" of the Signers, as asserted by Mr. Burns several years since. In the *Historical Magazine* for November, 1868, all the letters and documents of the collection were, as it then existed, given *in extenso*. Col. Myers there says of the collection: "It was made without reference to size; but the object has been, as far as possible, to obtain papers of historical interest." He subsequently made many changes in it.

It has one great rarity among its illustrations, of which but one other is in private hands, that of Dr. Emmet—an original printed copy of the Declaration, with the signs-manual of the President and Secretary of Congress, perhaps one of those sent to each of the thirteen States, by order of that body, January 18, 1777: "It was for many years," says Col. Myers, "the property of a gentleman in the South, from whom the collector procured it, like the other specimens, without 'making a raid,' or incurring an obligation which he did not attempt to acquit."

This Myers' set of the Signers numbers forty-three A. L. S.; with Thornton, Livingston, Hart, Morton, Taylor, Middleton and Wythe,

A. D. S.; Hopkins and Smith, L. S.; Heyward, Lynch, Gwinnett and Hall, D. S. The Lynch document is a deed of land, dated March 30th, 1779, but one other of the kind is known to be extant; from this Lynch deed Col. Myers detached a receipt signed by Lynch, which was passed over in exchange to Dr. Sprague, and now forms the Lynch representation in the set of the Signers of the Pennsylvania Historical Society. Of the forty-three full letters, twenty-six were written during the Revolutionary period; while seven of them bear date in 1776—Bartlett, Whipple, John Adams, Samuel Adams, Lewis Morris, Wilson and Chase. Judge Wilson's was written on the 4th of July in that year, recommending some company officers.

Col. Myers' poor health forbidding his further attention to his autographs, Dr. Emmet writes: "Recently his general collection has been arranged and bound up in seven volumes in alphabetical order, as he had no series complete but the Signers. This work has been done under my direction as an old friend. I have put the Signers into a special volume with their portraits, *fac-similes* of their letters, and one of the broadsides of the Declaration of Independence, signed by Hancock and Thomson, already mentioned. In the beginning of the volume is given a printed account of the drawing up of the Declaration, with an autograph and portrait of each member of the committee. There are also an autograph and portrait of the President, Secretary and Chaplain of Congress—then a *fac-simile* of the Declaration, and afterwards, in their order, the Signers from the different States. The result has been a superb volume, very handsomely bound—something which would have given Col. Myers great satisfaction could he have seen it in his best days."

Col. Myers delighted in collecting works and manuscripts illustrative of American history. For some time before his health failed him, he was engaged on a memoir of the members of the New York Society of the Cincinnati.

His death resulted from a stroke of apoplexy in New York City, June 16th, 1888, in his sixty-seventh year. He was a man of many virtues and acquirements, and left his fine autograph collections to his son and daughter, who will no doubt highly prize so precious an inheritance.

XIV.—The late JOSEPH W. DREXEL, of New York. This is the

second set formed by Mr. Tefft, and was purchased, in 1865, by Almon W. Griswold, of New York, from Mr. Tefft's widow, and subsequently passed into Mr. Drexel's possession. It lacked Paine, Smith, and Stone of completion, which Mr. Drexel has since supplied, as well as otherwise improved the collection. Thirty-nine are A. L. S.; while Hart, Harrison, Wythe, and Middleton are A. D. S.; Hancock, Jefferson, and Gwinnett, L. S.; Thornton, Paine, Hopkins, Morton, Taylor, Ross, Stone, Heyward, and Walton, D. S., and Lynch, a cut signature. The specialty of the collection is a brief Gwinnett letter written in 1777, purchased at the Mickley sale, in Nov., 1878, at a cost of \$110. Some one treated it with a dose of acid, for the purpose of darkening the ink, which had become pale, and caused the ink to spread, so that it looked like a letter-press copy, thus unfortunately injuring its appearance. Mr. Drexel, and perhaps others, have latterly thought this a full autograph letter; but in the Mickley catalogue it was recorded simply as an L. S.; and a comparison of the body of the letter as given in Brotherhead's *Book of the Signers*, with the signature, and with a few lines written by Gwinnett in Dr. Emmet's collection, prove that it is only a signed letter. Such is the decided understanding of Messrs. Gratz, Dreer, Davis, and Burns, who examined it at the time of the Mickley sale, and Messrs. Emmet, Fogg, and Stauffer concur in this opinion. The capital B and G in the signature are different from those in the body of the letter.

Five of the full letters of the collection were written in 1776—Wolcott, Livingston, Clark, R. Morris, and Wilson—the latter, dated June 26th, relates to a debate in Congress on independence. The collection is yet unbound, and is illustrated with engravings and etchings of the Signers, views, etc., with printed biographies.

Mr. Drexel had also a set of the Signers of the Constitution, and a collection of over thirty Washington letters, including a plan of his Mount Vernon estate drawn by himself.

After a long illness, Mr. Drexel died in New York, March 25, 1888, in his fifty-sixth year. He was born in Philadelphia, January 24, 1833—the youngest of the sons of Francis Martin Drexel, the founder of the banking house of Drexel & Co., in that city. He inherited his father's love and taste for music and art. His collection of paintings was valued at \$500,000; and his musical library was the most complete

in the country, which he designed for one of the public libraries of New York. He established soup-houses for the poor, and provided for the wants of many of the unfortunate families of convicts left destitute, and in many other ways proved himself a real lover of his race.

XV.—Dr. EMMET's third set. This forms a portion of his fine series of members of the Old Congress, 1774-'89. They number thirty-nine A. L. S.; Thornton, Whipple, Paine, Williams, Wolcott, Hart, Hopkinson, Stockton, Morton, Taylor, Read, and Wythe are A. D. S.; L. Morris, Heyward, Middleton, and Gwinnett are D. S.; and Lynch a signature, from the Bolton sale, originally from Mr. Tefft. Sixteen of the full letters were written during the Revolutionary period, of which Witherspoon and Hewes were penned in the Declaration year.

XVI.—STATE LIBRARY, Albany, N. Y. This was the first and only complete set formed by Mr. Tefft; and after its purchase, at the Tefft sale, in March, 1867, at \$625 by Mr. E. French, it was sold to the State of New York, with only twenty-seven full letters, for the moderate sum of \$800, the Legislature having made a special appropriation for that purpose. Since it went into the possession of the State, a number of improvements have been made, by the care and good judgment of the Librarian, the late Dr. Homes, in the substitution of better specimens, including eleven full letters. It now numbers thirty-eight A. L. S.; while Samuel Adams, Paine, Sherman, Hart, Stockton, McKean, Paca, Gwinnett, and Hall, are A. D. S.; Lewis and Livingston, L. S.; Thornton, Hopkins, Lewis Morris, Morton, Stone and Middleton, D. S., and Lynch, a cut signature. Of the full letters, Clark and Smith were written in 1776, and fifteen others during the Revolutionary period. The rarities of the collection are the full letter of Heyward, and the fine A. D. S. of Gwinnett. The set is nicely bound in dark Turkey morocco, in quarto size, with thirty-four engraved likenesses, and engravings of the Declaration; and in the volume are included letters or documents of R. R. Livingston, John Dickinson, and Thomas Willing, members of the Congress of 1776, but not Signers, and of Charles Thomson, the Secretary, together with one of Washington.

XVII.—The late Mrs. WM. D. ELY, Providence, R. I. This collection was made by Mrs. Eliza H. Allen, a daughter of Welcome

Arnold, of Providence, a descendant of the first Governor Green, of the Colonial days of Rhode Island. She was born in Providence, October 5, 1796; and was united in marriage to Hon. Zachariah Allen, LL.D., of that city. Mrs. Allen inherited from childhood many old ancestral papers, which inspired in her an early love for autographs. She must have commenced her set of the Signers not very long after Dr. Sprague, and by indefatigable industry she succeeded in securing her group of autographs, without the necessity of purchasing many of them, as at that early day they had not, to any extent, become a marketable commodity. She substantially completed her collections before 1850—her full set of the Signers somewhat earlier. She has the honor of having been the only lady who has succeeded in forming a complete collection of the Signers—Mrs. Wm. Hathaway, of New Bedford, Mass., having gathered a partial set.

It consists of thirty-seven A. L. S.; with Thornton, Floyd, Lewis, Stockton, Witherspoon, Morton, Taylor, Smith, McKean, Chase, Wythe, Middleton, Gwinnett, and Walton, A. D. S.; Livingston and Clymer, L. S.; and signatures only of Hart, to a Continental bill, F. L. Lee, and Lynch. Three of the full letters bear date in 1776—Wolcott, February 10th, Hancock, July 6th, and Gerry, October 4th, while eleven others were written during the Revolutionary war. The set is bound in a volume with thirty-five engraved likenesses. The Hancock and Heyward letters, and A. D. S. of Gwinnett, form the special features of interest in the collection.

Besides this full collection of the Declaration Signers, Mrs. Allen also formed nearly another set, together with many of the Signers of the Constitution; all of the Presidents of the United States; all of the Bishops of the Episcopal Church, from Bishop Seabury down to within a short time of her decease, illustrated with old engravings or photographs. Also many Huguenot letters in French, dating back to 1669, noted German autographs, many crowned heads, English and French; an original letter of Louis Philippe, written expressly for Mrs. Allen, with his signature and seal, alluding to his "chequered life," and his early visit to this country; together with letters of Voltaire, Addison, William Penn, Roger Williams, and many other notable personages.

Mrs. Allen also secured a superb work, in six folio volumes, consisting of autographs of all the persons, and illustrations of all the

places, mentioned in Cowper's poems and works, and is more particularly referred to in the notice of Andrew Robeson's incomplete set of the Signers, to whom these rare and beautiful volumes went by bequest.

Mrs. Allen passing away August 30, 1873, in her seventy-seventh year, her collection of the Signers and others was inherited by her daughter, Mrs. Ely, and by her grandson, Andrew Robeson. Mrs. Ely died at Providence, Oct. 15, 1888, at the age of seventy years. Her autograph collection will doubtless descend to her only surviving child, Mr. William Ely.

XVIII.—Col. C. C. JONES' second set consists of thirty-six A. L. S. ; Bartlett, Thornton, Hopkins, Sherman, Williams, Stockton, Clark, Ross, and Read, A. D. S. ; Wolcott, Livingston and R. H. Lee, L. S. ; L. Morris, Hart, Morton, Taylor, Heyward, Middleton, and Gwinnett, D. S. ; and Lynch, a signature. This set is designed for his son, and is inlaid on Whatman paper, and illustrated with the best engraved portraits extant, and views of residences, etc. Of the letters, eight were written during the Revolutionary period—Whipple in 1775, Smith in 1776, Hewes in 1777, Wythe and Penn in 1780, Nelson in 1781, Harrison in 1782, and Paca in 1783.

XIX.—Hon. T. STAMFORD RAFFLES, Liverpool, England. This collection was made by his father, the late Rev. Thomas Raffles, D. D., and LL. D., of that city, who was a much older man than any of our American collectors, having been born in London, May 17, 1778. He used to say, that the gift of a letter of the celebrated traveler, Mungo Park, first "inoculated" him with a passion for autographs. This was some time prior to 1814, when we find him securing valuable additions to his collection. Making journeys in Great Britain and on the Continent, he never returned without adding to his autograph accumulations. He received his first visit in 1828, from Rev. Dr. W. B. Sprague, with whom he had previously been in correspondence ; and for many years they rendered each other much mutual aid in the exchange of autographs. While it is not now known, yet it is quite likely that Dr. Sprague inspired in Dr. Raffles the idea of making a collection of the Signers. After many patient years of effort, Dr. Raffles completed his set in 1837.

This collection of the Signers numbers thirty A. L. S. ; Hart and

Paca, A. D. S. ; John Adams, Hopkins, Lewis, McKean, Hooper, and Walton, L. S. ; Thornton, Hancock, Huntington, Livingston, Lewis Morris, Clymer, Morton, Ross, Smith, Taylor, Wilson, Jefferson, F. L. Lee, Wythe, Heyward and Gwinnett, D. S. ; with Hewes and Lynch, signatures—the latter a cut one, “T. Lynch, J’.,” attached to a letter of his father signed “Tho. Lynch,” with Dr. Sprague’s certificate, that the autograph of the younger Lynch was taken from a book used by him while a student at Eton College, and furnished by his nephew, Gov. Hamilton, of South Carolina. The Gwinnett is an order on the Treasurer to pay an express rider six pounds, dated March 4, 1777.

Among the rarities of the collection are the full letters of Samuel Adams, Sherman, Stockton, and Middleton, with a fine historical document of Hancock to Washington, October 11, 1776, directing him “by every art, and at whatever expense, to obstruct effectually the navigation of the North River, between Fort Washington and Mount Constitution.” The special defects of the collection are, that while the Morton is a finely written holograph letter, June 20, 1765, addressed to Sir Wm. Johnson, and certified as such by Dr. Sprague, it is not signed ; and the signature of George Taylor is imperfect, the Christian name having been torn off. Besides the Hancock document, the Stockton letter was written in 1776.

A writer, nearly thirty years ago, said of this collection : “Dr. Raffles has his set bound in a beautiful volume, and values it almost as he would the famous Koh-i-noor. A wealthy Boston merchant once introduced himself to him in the street, and requested the privilege of seeing his collection. He then told the Doctor that he wished to make a present to his native city, and had seen nothing which so pleased him for that purpose as this set of autographs, and asked if there was any sum which would induce him to part with it? The Liverpool Doctor, however, who was wealthy, and besides considers a first-rate autograph a luxury greater than a miser’s gold heap, was not to be tempted.”

Dr. Raffles wrote many works of merit, and prepared a lecture on his favorite autograph hobby. He purchased comparatively few of his large manuscript collections, but arranged and illustrated them, accumulating as many as forty folio volumes, and fully as many more quartos, besides his seven volumes of American celebrities. He died

in Liverpool, August 18, 1863, leaving his noble autograph collections to his worthy son, Judge T. Stamford Raffles, of that city.

XX.—Dr. EMMET's fourth set is made up of less desirable specimens than those comprising his other full sets ; it is, however, a very neat and creditable collection. It numbers twenty-nine A. L. S. ; with Bartlett, Whipple, Hancock, Paine, Hopkins, Sherman, Floyd, Lewis, L. Morris, Clark, Witherspoon, Clymer, McKean, Morton, Rush, Wilson, Hooper, Heyward, and Hall, A. D. S. ; Livingston, Hart, Stockton, Taylor, Wythe, Middleton, and Gwinnett, D. S. ; and Lynch, a signature cut from a book. The Lynch signature, which was long lacking, was secured from Mrs. Ely's incomplete set, and though it is signed simply "Lynch," without the prefix Thomas, or suffix Jr., yet it may be regarded as genuine, as Col. Jones has a similar one in his second set, whose genuineness is well attested. Besides, this signature in Dr. Emmet's collection came from Dr. Sprague to Mrs. Ely's mother, Mrs. Allen, and it is highly probable that Dr. Sprague had it, as he did several others, from Mr. Tefft.

Of the twenty-nine full letters, fourteen bear date during the Revolutionary period, of which five were written in 1776—that of Ross, only two days before the Declaration. This set is made up of letters and documents in quarto and octavo size—thirty-nine in octavo, sixteen in quarto, with the Lynch signature. It is used to illustrate Sanderson's *Lives of the Signers*, in eight volumes, uncut, with just enough rare prints and engraved likenesses to render the volumes attractive and of convenient size. It is neatly bound.

XXI.—JOHN M. HALE, attorney at law, Philipsburg, Pa., has recently completed his set of the Signers. He was born in Lewistown, Pa., February 18, 1839, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1862. He commenced the collection of autographs in 1853, first finding rare letters and documents among some old papers he had occasion to examine ; and commenced by exchanging duplicates, and since has purchased many autographs from various auctions and other sources, securing his Lynch and Gwinnett at the recent Cist sale.

His collection of the Signers consists of thirty A. L. S. ; Bartlett, Thornton, Whipple, Hancock, Paine, Hopkins, Sherman, Williams, Wolcott, Livingston, Lewis Morris, Clark, Hopkinson, Stockton, Tay-

lor, Rutledge, and Walton, are A. D. S.; S. Adams, L. S.; Morton, Taylor, Heyward, Middleton, Gwinnett, and Hall, D. S., and Smith, in both D. S. and A. D.; Hart and Lynch, signatures. Fourteen are Revolutionary letters—Stone, Read, Hewes, and Penn, 1776; R. H. Lee, 1777; Lewis, 1778; Witherspoon, 1779; John Adams and Harrison, 1780; McKean and Nelson, 1781; Rodney, 1782; and Paca and Braxton, 1783.

Mr. Hale has nearly complete several other series—Presidents of the Continental Congress, and Presidents of the United States; Signers of the Articles of Confederation; members of the Continental Congress; Chief Justices and Associates of the Supreme Court; officers of the Revolutionary war; Episcopal Bishops of the United States; Governors of Pennsylvania; also a full set of the Signers of the Constitution. All these groups are finely illustrated.

XXII.—HON. MELLE CHAMBERLAIN, Boston. Though not the oldest in years, Mr. Chamberlain has been the longest engaged in making autograph collections of any of his surviving fellow collectors of sets of the Signers. He was born in Pembroke, N. H., June 4th, 1821; graduated at Dartmouth in 1844, and from the Dane Law School in 1848; and, in 1885, had conferred on him by Dartmouth the degree of LL. D. He has served as a judge, and has been many years Librarian of the Boston Public Library. He began to collect autographs as early as 1836, and made the fine set of the Signers, and other series, now in the Leffingwell collection. Judge Chamberlain's present set of the Signers is unique in its character and arrangement. It is made up of the genuine signatures, pasted on a fine copy of the Declaration in *fac-simile*, of full size, on parchment colored paper. The document is glazed and framed. It thus faithfully represents the great Declaration, and is infinitely more pleasant to look at than the misused and time-worn original at Washington. This set was completed about 1865.

He has sets of the Signers of the Constitution and of the Confederation; also, an address of the Continental Congress to the King of Great Britain in 1774, all represented in the same way as the Signers. These Judge Chamberlain calls *Tablets*; and it must be confessed that they present a very attractive appearance.

His general collection, American and European, will, when bound, with portraits and other illustrations and letterpress, make some 200

volumes. He has made a specialty of illustrating books, such as Duyckinck's *Cyclopedia of American Literature*, which has grown to about sixty volumes ready for binding.

Whether expressed or otherwise, the autograph of Charles Thomson, the faithful Secretary of Congress, may always be regarded as finding an appropriate place in every collection of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence.

INCOMPLETE SETS OF THE SIGNERS.

Concise notices will now be given of the incomplete collections extant of the Signers, so far as we have been able to obtain any knowledge of them—giving their strength so far as known. These representations tend to show the scarcity of certain autographs, and the difficulty—nay, almost impossibility—of securing them.

1. SIMON GRATZ, of Philadelphia, has all save Lynch of a second set—which he once possessed, but spared it to round out another collection. This set forms a part of his series of the Old Congress, and consists of fifty-one A. L. S., with Hopkins and Gwinnett, L. S. ; and Morton and Middleton, D. S. The character and condition of the specimens are very little inferior to his complete set. There are some, though not many, 1776 letters among them. The collection is well illustrated.

2. Col. FRANK M. ETTING, Ward P. O., Delaware Co., Penn., has fifty-five of the Signers, lacking Lynch ; fifty are A. L. S. ; Hart and Morton, A. D. S. ; Hopkins, Smith, and Gwinnett, D. S. Mr. Tefft once tendered Colonel Etting a Lynch signature, which he declined, saying he never admitted such specimens into his collection.

Besides this set and many duplicates of the Signers, he has two sets of the Signers of the Constitution ; the Albany Congress of 1754, nearly complete ; the Congress of 1765, with the Colonial Governors of the period, and letters of Braddock, Wolfe, and other officers of the Seven Years' War ; the Congress of 1774, complete and unique, including an original printed copy of the association of 1774, signed in written signatures by the members—this copy was sent to Maryland, and purchased from a descendant of Col. Tench Tilghman, who inherited it ; a set of the Generals of the Revolution, nearly complete ;

the Confederation of 1778, nearly, if not quite, complete ; Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Cabinet members, from Washington to Johnson. Colonel Etting has devoted to Washington, Byron, and Napoleon, each a separate volume of autographs and illustrations, giving each his associates and surroundings, his loves and his hates, and everything going to make up a unique and interesting collection. Among all these are many great rarities—one a letter from Mary, the mother of Washington, in which she familiarly writes of her “ George ” with her own hand.

Colonel Etting has one-half of a copy of the Declaration of Independence, which he believes was the one John Nixon read from when the great act was proclaimed in Independence Square, on the 8th of July, 1776. It came from Mr. Nixon's papers, and is very much worn, as if carried in his pocket in hot weather ; but unfortunately only the latter half of the document is preserved, the signatures being printed.

Colonel Etting, now fifty-five years of age, commenced his autograph gathering many years ago ; but poor health in recent years has prevented him from prosecuting and completing his collections, which, it is understood, he designs eventually to bequeath to the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

3. Dr. JOHN S. H. FOGG, of Boston, has a second set of the Signers, fifty-five in number, lacking Lynch only. It is used in his group of the Old Congress ; forty-eight are A. L. S. ; Taylor and Read, A. D. S. ; Morton and Middleton, L. S. ; Hart and Heyward, D. S. ; and Gwinnett, A. D. Of the full letters, twenty-seven were written in 1776, and Morton, L. S. also. Fully illustrated.

4. D. McN. STAUFFER, of New York, having fifty-five autographs of the Signers, lacks only Lynch of a full set ; of which forty-five are A. L. S., having the rarity of a full Morton among them, which with Dr. Emmet's, formerly Colonel Myers', are the only two full Morton letters known to be extant, an unsigned one being in the Raffles' collection. Thornton, Wolcott, and Read, are A. D. S. ; Hopkins, Livingston, and Middleton, L. S. ; Lewis Morris, Hart, Heyward, and Gwinnett are D. S. Twenty-two of the full letters are of the Revolutionary period, nine of which are 1776 letters—nearly all are of historical interest, particularly that of Rush, which was written in old Independence Hall, and refers at length to the Declaration.

Mr. Stauffer has completed a set of the Signers of the Constitution, as well as of the non-signers, largely illustrated.

He has besides several other interesting series :

(1). The Old Congress, 1774-'89, lacking only twenty-eight, which includes forty-one specimens of a second set of the Signers.

(2). Generals of the Revolution, wanting only thirteen names.

(3). Aids to General Washington, thirty in number, lacking one only.

(4). Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Cabinet Officers, arranged in separate administrations, from Washington to Lincoln inclusive. All A. L. S., and each administration complete, though necessarily in some instances duplicating specimens.

(5). Governors of Pennsylvania to date.

(6). Mr. Stauffer has used about three thousand letters and documents in illustrating a History of Philadelphia, from 1630-1830, which fills by the expansion of these profuse illustrations, twenty-five folio volumes, and contains, besides the autograph letters and documents, some thousands of engravings, views, broadsides, pen drawings, water-colors, etc., etc. This splendid work is not yet complete. The collection is particularly rich in autographs of the Penn family, eighteen letters in all, commencing with an A. L. S. of Admiral William Penn, the father of the founder of Pennsylvania.

(7). Of the Colonial and Revolutionary period, he has arranged in miscellaneous lots the "officers of the Revolution," numbering over five hundred names.

Mr. Stauffer has also numerous minor series, chiefly Pennsylvania groups—Mayors of Philadelphia, 1700-1876, wanting two only; Attorneys-General of Pennsylvania, 1682-1876, lacking only four; U. S. Senators from Pennsylvania, complete; Judges of Pennsylvania Supreme Court; members of Pennsylvania Convention, and Committees of Safety; Governors of other States; officers of French and Indian War, 1755, etc.; medical, literary men, clergymen, etc., etc.

He has between ten and twelve thousand letters and documents in all, including a goodly number of foreign names, French marshals, kings of England, and British officers of the Revolution, etc.

Mr. Stauffer, the collector of all these interesting series of autographs, was born in Lancaster, Pa., in 1845, and commenced collect-

ing his rich gatherings in 1876, when he fell heir to the papers of Chief Justice Jasper Yeates, of Pennsylvania, a large and valuable accumulation of papers and correspondence of a man who figured prominently in public affairs in that State from 1774 until his death in 1817. Mr. Stauffer, as well as Mr. Gratz, is justly regarded as a judge and expert in American autographs.

5. CHARLES ROBERTS, of Philadelphia, has fifty-four of a second set of the Signers, which form part of his members of the Old Congress and of the Confederation, lacking only Lynch and Gwinnett; forty-two are A. L. S.; the other thirteen are made up of less desirable specimens.

6. HON. ELLIOT DANFORTH, of Bainbridge, N. Y., was born in Middleburgh, Schoharie County, in that State, March 6, 1850, and after receiving a liberal education, and making some journeys to the Pacific coast, he studied law under the direction of his father, Judge Peter S. Danforth, of Middleburgh; and since his admission to the bar, in 1871, he has, besides successfully practicing his profession, filled many local positions of honor and responsibility, once declining a candidacy for Congress, and twice has represented his district in National Democratic conventions. He is now worthily serving his second term as Assistant State Treasurer of New York. He is a hard student in solid literature, and a successful collector of autographs and manuscripts.

Mr. Danforth's collection of the Signers numbers fifty-four, lacking Lynch and Gwinnett; of which thirty-six are A. L. S.; Thornton, Hancock, Sherman, Wolcott, Livingston, Clark, Hopkinson, Stockton, Ross, Read, Heyward and Hall, A. D. S.; S. Adams and Middleton, L. S.; Paine, Hopkins, Hart and Morton, D. S. Of the full letters, fifteen were written during the Revolutionary period, one of them a 1776 letter.

Mr. Danforth has an Old Congress series well advanced, in which are scattered nearly all of the Signers of the Constitution; a set of the Generals of the Revolution to the number of sixty-seven; the Albany Congress and Stamp Act Congress lack only a few names; and he has a complete set of the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Cabinet officers, together with a very fine series of the leading Union and Confederate generals, and many literary and other celebrities.

7. Dr. EMMET has a fifth collection of the Signers numbering fifty-

four, embraced in his special set of the Congress of 1774, and among other groups, all or nearly all in A. L. S. form, and lacking Lynch and Gwinnett. Although unambitious of completing a fifth set, this successful collector may yet surprise both himself and friends with the accomplishment of this remarkable feat.

8. **HIRAM HITCHCOCK**, of New York, has fifty-four of the Signers, lacking Lynch and Gwinnett; of which John Adams, Gerry, Paine, Ellery, Huntington, Lewis, Witherspoon, Franklin, R. Morris, Rush, Wilson, Rodney, Carroll, Chase, Braxton, Jefferson, one of the Lees, Nelson, Hooper, and Walton are A. L. S.; while the others are A. D. S. or D. S.

9. **CHARLES F. GUNTHER**, of Chicago, has fifty-four of the Signers, wanting Lynch and Gwinnett, said to be largely of a good character; but Mr. Gunther neglects to give any information concerning them.

10. The second set of **Mrs. D. J. COHEN**, of Baltimore, gathered by the late Dr. Cohen, lacked two of completion in 1870, apparently Lynch and Gwinnett; and, it is believed, the collection has received no addition or improvement since that time.

11. **JAMES A. EDGERLY**, of Great Falls, N. H., has a set wanting Lynch and Gwinnett. We only learn that it is not strong in full autograph letters.

12. The second set of **Hon. JOHN BOYD THACHER**, of Albany, numbers fifty-three, lacking Lynch, Gwinnett, and Hall, made up mostly of A. D. S., and D. S., and with but few full letters in the collection.

13. **HENRY A. WILLARD**, of Washington, D. C., has fifty-three of the Signers, which includes a Gwinnett signature, and lacks Lewis Morris, Hooper, and Lynch. He has both a Lynch letter and signature, but they are undoubtedly spurious, as elsewhere fully explained.

There are twenty-six A. L. S. in the collection; Clymer, Stone, and Middleton, A. D. S.; S. Adams, L. S.; Bartlett, Thornton, Whipple, Paine, Hopkins, Williams, Lewis, Hart, Hopkinson, Clark, Smith, Taylor, Wilson, Rodney, McKean, Harrison, and Hall are D. S.; Sherman, Morton, Wythe, Hewes, Heyward, and Gwinnett, are signatures. The set is handsomely bound in leather, and illustrated with engravings.

Mr. Willard had his interest first attracted to autographs by coming into possession of many of the papers and letters of his wife's grand-

father, Hon. Stephen R. Bradley, who was an aid to Gen. Wooster in the Revolution, and represented Vermont in the United States Senate from 1791 to 1795, and again from 1801 to 1813. He survived till 1830, was a man of eminent ability but eccentric habits, and had an extensive correspondence in his day, from which Mr. Willard selected many valuable autograph specimens.

Some years ago Mr. Willard, in passing along one of the streets of Washington, was prompted to step into a junk-shop, where was a great pile of paper heaped up in the middle of the floor awaiting assortment for the paper mill. Happening to turn some of the papers over with his foot while chatting with the proprietor of the shop, Mr. Willard was surprised to see that they consisted mainly of old letters and manuscripts of various kinds, and picking one up discovered that it was a valuable autograph letter. He then requested that the pile be left for his further examination, to which the proprietor said that his employees would soon be ready to assort the papers, so as to have them in readiness for shipment the next day. After considerable negotiation and the payment of fifty dollars, Mr. Willard arranged to have the pile left undisturbed till the following day, with permission to select such as he might choose. It proved to be a rich vein he had struck, and many valuable additions were made to his collections.

Mr. Willard has among his rich gatherings a set of all the Presidents and their Cabinets down to Lincoln's administration, and many manuscript speeches of Clay, Webster, Hayne, Benton, Polk, Choate and others.

14. The second set of Miss MARY M. LEFFINGWELL, of New Haven, Conn., numbers fifty-two of the Signers, lacking Taylor, Lynch, Middleton, and Gwinnett; forty-six are A. L. S., with Bartlett, Hopkins, and Heyward, L. S.; Hart and Livingston, D. S.; and Morton, a signature to a Continental bill. Unbound, and copiously illustrated.

15. HOWARD K. SANDERSON, of Lynn, Mass., probably the youngest collector of autographs of the Signers, is only twenty-two years of age, and commenced his collection in 1884. His set numbers fifty-two, of which twenty-six are A. L. S.; Bartlett, Sherman, Williams, Wolcott, Floyd, Stockton, Read, Hooper, and Rutledge, are A. D. S.; Livingston, Lewis, L. Morris, Smith, Taylor, Harrison, Heyward, and Walton are L. S.; Thornton, Hancock, S. Adams, Hopkins, Hart,

Witherspoon, Franklin, Morton, and Wythe are D. S.; and Lynch, Middleton, Gwinnett, and Hall lacking. Of the full letters, twelve are of the Revolutionary period, as are also five of the L. S.; the full letters of Chase and Penn were written in 1776.

Mr. Sanderson has also several other series well advanced—the Presidents, Governors of Massachusetts; and of the kings and queens of England, from Henry VIII. to Victoria, fifteen in number.

16. BYRON REED, of Omaha, Nebraska, commenced collecting autographs about forty years ago, but much of his gatherings has been brought together within the past ten years. While his collection is general, his set of the Signers numbers fifty-two, lacking Hooper, Lynch, Gwinnett, and Hall. It consists of twenty A. L. S.; thirteen A. D. S., some of which are important historical documents; sixteen D. S.; and three L. S.

17. JAMES W. HOWARTH, of Glen Riddle, Pa., has fifty-two of the Signers, of which nineteen are A. L. S.; while Paine, Floyd, Clark, Stockton, Ross, Rush, Wilson, Chase, Stone, and Rutledge, are A. D. S.; Whipple and Livingston, L. S.; Bartlett, S. Adams, Hopkins, Huntington, Hart, Franklin, Morton, Smith, McKean, Harrison, Nelson, Hewes, Hooper, and Heyward, D. S.; Lewis, L. Morris, Rodney, Read, F. L. Lee, and Middleton, signatures, and Wythe, a specimen of writing. The lacking autographs are Penn, Lynch, Gwinnett, and Hall. Nine of the full letters are of the Revolutionary period, of which Taylor's was written in 1776. The set is arranged in a large book, illustrated with forty-four portraits and forty-eight views.

Besides a full set of the Signers of the Constitution, Mr. Howarth has all but four of the Generals of the Revolution, including eight specimens of Washington; also the Presidents and Vice-Presidents, with the Cabinet officers, neatly bound, and, so far as obtainable, illustrated with portraits, views, and biographical sketches. He has another full set of the Presidents, and a third one nearly complete; and a volume of President Jefferson Davis of the Southern Confederacy, and his Cabinet, with personal sketches, engravings, and views.

He has twenty autographs towards a second set of the Signers. He has, moreover, series of our American judiciary, members of Congress, eminent political and literary characters, distinguished divines,

together with a full set of the Generals on both sides of our civil war, also fully illustrated.

Mr. Howarth has several finely printed books, illustrated with autographs—Duyckinck & Chappell's *Lives of the Presidents*, Tome's *War in the South*, in three volumes; *National Portrait Gallery*, two volumes; *Lives of the Governors of Pennsylvania*, with thirty-eight autograph illustrations—designing to arrange his autographs, colonial and modern, of the Governors of other States and Territories in separate volumes. He has also a large album, with portrait engravings and autographs of many American celebrities.

Mr. Howarth was born in Delaware County, Pa., in 1847, where he fills an honored and useful position in society. He commenced gathering autographs in 1864, and his varied and growing collections now exceed seventeen thousand, which include Napoleon and Wellington, with many foreign potentates and celebrities.

18. The third set of CHARLES ROBERTS, of Philadelphia, numbers fifty-one of the Signers, of which thirty-five are A. L. S.; the others are either A. D. S., L. S., or D. S. Fully illustrated.

19. Rev. Jos. H. DUBBS, D.D., of Lancaster, Pa., has fifty of the Signers, made up, as a rule, of letters or fine A. D. S., and not including any cut signatures. The lacking autographs are Penn, Heyward, Lynch, Middleton, Gwinnett, and Hall.

Dr. Dubbs has also a complete set of the Signers of the Constitution; and other series, yet incomplete, of the Generals of the Revolution, Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Cabinet members, Judges of the Supreme Court, naval officers, American authors, and American divines, including more than a hundred Episcopal bishops; together with series of Pennsylvania members of the Continental Congress and down to the present time, Governors, Senators and Attorneys-General. Dr. Dubbs commenced making his collections in 1860, and has been very successful, giving, however, but little attention to them of late years.

Dr. Dubbs was born at North White Hall, Pa., October 5th, 1838. He graduated from college in 1856, and from the Mercersburg Theological Seminary in 1859; and acceptably served as rector of Zion Church, Allentown, Trinity Church, Pottstown, and Christ Church, Philadelphia, and since 1875 has served as Professor of His-

tory and Archæology in Franklin and Marshall College at Lancaster. He has been honored with membership in several learned institutions ; serving also as editor and newspaper correspondent and author of *Historic Manual of the Reformed Church*.

20. HAROLD BROWN, of Providence, R. I., has forty-eight specimens of the Signers, of which thirty-five are A. L. S.; Bartlett, Hart, Read, Wythe and Hewes, A. D. S.; Livingston, L. S.; S. Adams, Hopkins, Floyd, Morton, Ross, McKean and Heyward, D. S.; wanting Hancock, Paine, Taylor, Hooper, Lynch, Middleton, Gwinnett and Hall. This set was originally made by the late Hon. Henry C. Murphy, of Brooklyn, and was purchased for the Hon. John Carter Brown, at the Murphy sale, in March, 1884, at a cost of \$445, and has since been improved. On the death of Mr. Brown, the set passed into the hands of Mr. Harold Brown. There are nine duplicates of the Signers, in some form, in the collection.

21. GEO. M. CONARROE, attorney at law, Philadelphia, commenced his collections about 1850, and gathered the most of them during the ensuing ten years. His set of the Signers numbers forty-eight, of which thirty-three are A. L. S.; Paine, Witherspoon, Morton, Ross, Smith, Taylor, and McKean, A. D. S.; Harrison, L. S.; J. Adams, a note signed with initials; Bartlett, Thornton, Hopkins, Stone, Middleton, and Gwinnett, D. S.; lacking Wythe, Hewes, Hooper, Penn, Heyward, Lynch, Gwinnett, and Hall.

Mr. Conarroe has also made incomplete series of Generals of the Revolution, Presidents and Cabinet members ; together with interesting collections of literary, scientific, and legal autograph letters and documents.

22. The late HARRISON WRIGHT, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., commenced collecting autographs in 1864, and continued it until his death, Feb. 20, 1885. His collections include a set of the Presidents and their Cabinets, and forty-eight of the fifty-six Signers of the Declaration of Independence—of which fourteen are A. L. S., one L. S., and seven signatures. The lacking autographs are those of Bartlett, Williams, L. Morris, Hooper, Hewes, Lynch, Middleton, and Gwinnett. On Mr. Wright's death, his autographs fell to his brother, Hon. J. RIDGEWAY WRIGHT, of Wilkesbarre, who has concluded to retain and improve them.

23. The second set of F. J. DREER, of Philadelphia, numbers forty-

seven ; of which forty-three are A. L. S. ; Morton, A. D. S. ; Hopkins and Livingston, L. S. ; and Heyward, D. S. ; lacking Thornton, Paine, Stockton, Ross, Stone, Penn, Lynch, Middleton and Gwinnett. Copiously illustrated.

24. CHARLES P. GREENOUGH, of Boston, has forty-seven autographs of the Signers, including a D. S. of Gwinnett ; twenty are A. L. S., nine A. D. S., one L. S., thirteen D. S., two A. D., and two signatures ; all are utilized in a series of members of the Old Congress, of which he has a large majority. Besides nearly all of the Signers of the Constitution, Mr. Greenough has a complete set of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents and Cabinet officers, and a nearly full set of the Generals of the Revolution. From the John Hancock papers, he selected for his general collection 1,500 letters, and 2,000 from Daniel Webster's correspondence.

25. NATHANIEL PAINE, Worcester, Mass., has forty-five of the Signers in his collection, of which eighteen are A. L. S. ; Whipple, Sherman, Wolcott, McKean, Paca, Wythe, and Rutledge, A. D. S. ; S. Adams, Hancock, Paine, Ellery, Williams, Floyd, Livingston, L. Morris, Hopkinson, Witherspoon, Morton, Ross, Taylor, Wilson, Chase, and Walton, D. S. ; Hart, Stockton, Harrison, and Heyward, signatures ; lacking Hopkins, Clark, Read, Stone, Hewes, Hooper, Penn, Lynch, Middleton, Gwinnett, and Hall.

Mr. Paine's collection of the Signers is bound up in two volumes, in half red crushed levant morocco, with illuminated titles especially prepared for them. The first volume contains an historical monograph, handsomely printed, with fourteen engravings of the Signers mentioned in that collection ; a brief history of the thirteen original States, and lives of the Signers properly illustrated ; two finely printed copies of the Declaration, with an early broadside of that document ; then Brotherhead's *fac-similes* from his *Book of the Signers*, with portraits, and before each *fac-simile* is placed the original autograph on the space left vacant for that purpose. This volume embraces the New England States and New York, with an illuminated coat of arms of each of those States. The second volume includes the remaining States, with autographs and illustrations similarly arranged, together with *fac-similes* of the original Declaration and signatures, and chronological tables of the principal events of the country from 1776 to 1876.

26. ANDREW ROBESON, of Brookline, Mass., inherits from his grandmother, the late Mrs. Eliza H. Allen, of Providence, her incomplete set of the signers, numbering some forty-three, lacking Whipple, Floyd, Stockton, L. Morris, Smith, Read, R. H. Lee, Nelson, Middleton, Lynch, Gwinnett, and two others not designated.

Mr. Robeson also inherits from Mrs. Allen a unique collection of autographs of all persons or places mentioned in Cowper's poems or works, in six large folio volumes, beautifully bound and illustrated by engravings and pen and ink sketches by a son of a Mr. Thompson, an engineer in the British army. In one of these volumes is an autograph of Bunyan, with its history. It is said that there are only thirteen known autographs of Bunyan in existence.

27. WM. B. FAXON, New York City. His incomplete collection was made several years past by his father, the late Hon. Wm. Faxon, of Hartford, Conn., at one time Assistant Secretary of the Navy. It consists of forty-three of the Signers, of which J. Adams, Gerry, Sherman, Stockton, R. Morris, Rush, Clymer, Rodney, Carroll, Paca, Jefferson and Braxton are A. L. S.; Bartlett, Thornton, Whipple and Paine, A. D. S.; Hancock, Huntington, Livingston and Harrison are L. S.; S. Adams, Hopkins, Ellery, Williams, Wolcott, Lewis, Witherspoon, Franklin, Ross, Wilson, McKean, Chase, Stone, R. H. Lee, Wythe and Rutledge are D. S.; Hopkins, Hart and Morton are bills signed; Hewes and Penn, letter franks; Nelson and Walton, signatures. Those wanting of the Signers are Floyd, L. Morris, Clark, Smith, Taylor, Read, F. L. Lee, Hooper, Heyward, Lynch, Middleton, Gwinnett and Hall.

Mr. Faxon's other collections embrace autographs of nearly all the Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Cabinet officers, many army and naval officers, congressmen and literary characters.

28. The second set of D. McN. STAUFFER, of New York, numbers forty-one, which goes towards forming a collection of the members of the Old Congress—some three hundred and eighty in all, of which he lacks but twenty-three.

29. The third set of F. J. DREER, of Philadelphia, numbers forty, thirty-five of which are A. L. S.; S. Adams, Livingston, Smith and Paca, L. S., and Morton, D. S.; while sixteen are lacking, viz.: Thornton, Paine, Hopkins, Williams, Hart, Stockton, Ross, Stone,

Hewes, Hooper, Penn, Heyward, Lynch, Middleton, Gwinnett and Hall.

30. GORDON L. FORD, of Brooklyn, has thirty-seven of the Signers—thirty A. L. S., and seven either A. D. S. or D. S. There are none of the Signers of the Carolinas or Georgia represented in the collection, save a signed document by Rutledge. His collection was commenced in 1839, at which time Mr. Ford states that he knew but four other collectors in this country; namely: Dr. Sprague, Mr. Tefft, Mr. Gilmer and Mr. Cist. His aim was not so much to form any complete series, as to secure letters of historic interest and value. His incomplete set of the Signers is alphabetically arranged, illustrated with portraits, views and short sketches, but not bound. His entire autograph collection is one of the largest in our country, reaching probably the great number of a hundred thousand letters and documents. Mr. Ford, a native of Connecticut, who has passed his sixty-fifth milestone in life, enjoys the company of his surroundings with unflagging pleasure and pardonable pride.

31. FRANK D. ANDREWS, of Vineland, N. J., has a general collection of some ten thousand specimens. Among them are thirty-four autographs of the Signers, of which Ellery, Huntington, McKean, Paca, Chase, Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison and R. H. Lee are A. L. S.; Bartlett, Thornton, Paine, Williams, Clymer, Smith and Wilson are A. D. S.; Hopkinson and R. Morris are L. S.; J. Adams, S. Adams, Gerry, Hancock, Wolcott, Livingston and Ross are D. S.; Sherman, Franklin, F. L. Lee, Nelson and Wythe are signatures; Lewis, autograph specimen of writing, and Hart and Morton, colonial bills signed, and one other not classified.

32. HON. GARRET D. W. VROOM, of Trenton, N. J., has twenty-six of the Signers, of which Hancock, Livingston, Clark, Stockton, Wither-
spoon, Clymer, Morris, McKean, Jefferson and Walton are A. L. S.; while Bartlett, Thornton, Sherman, Floyd, Lewis, Hart, Ross, Smith, are A. D. S.; John and Sam. Adams, Gerry, Huntington and Franklin are L. S.; and L. Morris, Hopkinson and Hall are D. S.

Mr. Vroom has also a number of letters, of the Revolutionary period, in other series.

33. HON. CHARLES H. BELL, of Exeter, N. H., has a general collection of most of the officers and patriots of the Revolution as well as

foreign officers, which include twenty-one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, of which about one-half are A. L. S.

Mr. Bell's special attention has been given mostly to a collection of autographs of the Generals and other distinguished officers of the Revolution, which have been inlaid with appropriate letterpress, illustrated with engravings. His autographs have been divided into the following groups :

- I. Preliminary, including George III. and his principal ministers, and the leading patriots of the ante-Revolutionary period.
- II. Concord, Bunker Hill, and the siege of Boston.
- III. Canada and Burgoyne's expedition.
- IV. Battle of Long Island to Valley Forge.
- V. Monmouth to Arnold's treason.
- VI. Southern officers and events.
- VII. Yorktown, and end of the war.

These groups embrace nearly all of the American Revolutionary Generals and a good proportion of the British and other foreign officers, and is particularly strong in the French officers in the American service. When possible, specimens of the officers written during the campaign in which they more especially figured, have been obtained.

34. HON. MELLE CHAMBERLAIN, of Boston, besides his set of mounted signatures of the Signers, has some thirty letters and documents towards a second collection, of which we have no classification.

35. The PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY has about one-half of the Signers in separate letter form, which they design utilizing, at some future time, in improving their set, which came from the collections of the late Dr. Sprague.

36. Miss MARY D. HATHAWAY, of New Bedford, Mass., inherited from her mother, Mrs. William Hathaway, several years since, an incomplete collection of the Signers. Of its composition we have no information.

37. CHARLES S. OGDEN, of Philadelphia, is mentioned as an autograph collector as early as 1853. "Some twenty years or more ago," wrote the late R. C. Davis, "Mr. Ogden had the nucleus of a nice collection of the Signers, which was given to his son Henry Corbit Ogden, of New York." We have no knowledge of its strength or classification.

38. The second set of J. W. HOWARTH, of Glen Riddle, Pa., numbers twenty specimens.

39. HON. HENRY C. VAN SCHAACK, of Manlius, N. Y., made some general autograph collections in his day. He was born at Kinderhook, N. Y., April 3, 1802. For sixty-four years he practiced law ; declining public employments, he devoted himself to his profession and to literary pursuits. His chief literary productions were, *Life of Peter Van Schaack*, LL.D., his worthy parent ; *A Kinderhook Mansion* ; *Henry Cruger, the Colleague of Edmund Burke* ; *Captain Morris, of the Illinois Country* ; a *History of Manlius* ; and a *Life of Major Harry Van Schaack*, who figured largely in the Revolutionary War in the New England States, in manuscript, which his descendants intend publishing in accordance with the author's wishes. He was fond of saving historical newspaper scraps, and left many volumes systematically arranged, twelve of which relate exclusively to historical and biographical selections, and three to the history of Onondaga County, N. Y.

His collection of autographs was designed to illustrate the period of the war of the American Revolution, among which were at least eighteen full letters of the Signers—all bound in three fine volumes, and fully illustrated with engravings, sketches, newspaper articles, etc., descending to his children, Mrs. Wm. G. Hibbard, of Chicago, Mrs. A. J. Vanderpoel, of New York, and Peter Van Schaack, of Chicago.

Mr. Van Schaack died at Manlius, N. Y., Dec. 18, 1887, in his eighty-sixth year, leaving behind him a stainless name, and a reputation for ability, goodness and integrity, second to none of his day and generation.

40. CHARLES J. HOADLY, of Hartford, Conn., has eighteen autographs of the Signers—of which Huntington, Sherman, Williams, Wolcott, Hopkinson, Carroll, and Braxton are A. L. S. ; Hancock and R. Morris are L. S. ; Bartlett, Thornton, Hopkins, Clymer, Franklin and Jefferson are D. S. ; and Hart, Morton, and Heyward signatures on Colonial bills.

41. FRED. M. STEELE, of Chicago, has a few specimens of the Signers. His collection numbers some four thousand altogether, which include Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Cabinet officers, military characters, and literary and musical celebrities.

42. EBEN LANE, of Chicago, has autographs of several of the Signers, including one of Hart, but seems not to have made any special effort towards perfecting the series. He has what he regards as a Lynch signature, which he has had several years, but is unable to trace its origin. The chances are ten to one that it is spurious. Mr. Lane is a grandson of Chief Justice Ebenezer Lane, of Ohio, related to Oliver Wolcott, the signer, and Governor Griswold, of Connecticut, and in this way Mr. Lane got quite a start in his autograph collection. While he has many groups, none of them seem to be complete ; among them are the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Cabinet officers, the Chief Justices and Associates, American statesmen, many of the Generals of the Revolution, the American Episcopal bishops, and many dramatic personages—the latter used in illustrating MacClise's *Portrait Gallery*, and Matthews' and Hutton's *Actors and Actresses of Great Britain and America*.

43. Z. T. HOLLINGSWORTH, of Boston, has a large but general collection of autographs, with no completed group. He has quite a number of specimens of the Signers of the Declaration and of the Constitution. On Washington and the Revolutionary War, it is understood that his collection is quite strong and interesting, including many papers and correspondence of General Jethro Sumner, of North Carolina, during the campaign of 1780.

44. MRS. SARAH J. SPALDING, of Newburyport, Mass., has an interesting general collection, which came down to her in part from her Revolutionary ancestry. They embrace, among others, a fine representation of our modern American writers of prose and poetry. There is no series complete, but the collection contains quite a number of the Signers.

45. ARBA BORDEN, of Boston, has recently commenced the formation of a set of Signers, and has specimens, mostly in letter form, of about twenty.

46. Col. F. M. ETTING, of Ward, Pa., in addition to his set of fifty-five of the Signers, has nearly a full collection of the signatures of the Signers, mounted and framed, with likenesses. Of their exact number and deficiencies, we are without information.

The incomplete set of Signers made by Dr. LEWIS ROPER, of Philadelphia, was purchased at his death by the late Jos. J. MICKLEY, of

that city, at a sale in Feb., 1851, which took place on a wet night when there were but few or no competitors; and after much improving, and completion prior to 1860, it was finally dispersed at auction, after Mr. Mickley's death, in Nov., 1878—many of the specimens bringing good prices for that day—Gwinnett, L. S., \$110; Lynch signature, bought for Dr. Fogg, \$95; Hall, A. L. S., \$60; Hewes, A. L. S., \$37.50; Hooper, A. L. S., \$32; Middleton, L. S., \$29; Penn, A. L. S., \$27.50; F. L. Lee, A. L. S., \$21; Heyward, D. S., \$15.

LEWIS J. CIST, of Cincinnati, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1818, was an early collector, commencing in 1835, but did not complete his set of the Signers until 1850, when he received a Lynch signature from Mr. Tefft. His collection seems to have been the fifth completed set—Sprague, Raffles, Tefft and Gilmor preceding him in this honor. Mr. Cist, quite a poet and *litterateur*, spent his life mainly in the employ of banks and insurance companies. But his set, after all, was deficient of two of the Signers, from his having been misled by two wrong specimens. His death at Cincinnati, March 31, 1885, caused the dispersion, separately, of his large collection of autographs at auction.

ROBERT COULTON DAVIS, of Philadelphia, was a prominent and successful autograph collector for a period of some forty-seven years—making one full set of the Declaration Signers and of the Signers of the Constitution, with other notable series, all of which since his death have passed into the possession of Mr. Charles Roberts, of Philadelphia. Mr. Davis was born in Philadelphia, Aug. 3, 1833, where he was long engaged in the business of a druggist. The political campaigns of 1840 and 1844 inspired within him a love for autographs; prior to 1845 he had secured but a few, which were pasted promiscuously in a scrap-book. Obtaining from Mr. Clay an autograph letter, he began in earnest to gather those of other celebrities. He commenced forming his set of the Signers in 1850, completing it in 1870, and was ever after improving and perfecting his specimens to folio size as opportunities offered, so that all, save about half a dozen, were of that size. Mr. Davis died in Philadelphia, in the midst of his usefulness, Aug. 24, 1888, at the age of fifty-five years. His splendid autograph collection has gone to enrich Mr. Roberts' several series—thus doubling up two fine gatherings, and adding very much strength and completeness to the combined collection.

The late JAMES C. MCGUIRE's manuscript collections are of an historical character ; the Washington papers alone fill two volumes, relating to the movements of the army during the Revolution, and questions of state, including a draft of the original first Farewell Address submitted to Mr. Madison. There are several volumes of Madison letters, published some years ago for private distribution. Many letters of Jefferson, Gen. Knox, Adams, and Clay ; a volume of letters of Edmund Randolph ; of Joseph Jones, a prominent member of Congress from Virginia during the Revolution ; of John Drayton, and of Edmund Pendleton. Here may be seen the ciphers of Madison and Jefferson during the Revolution, and Tobias Lear's account of expenses for the first eleven weeks of Washington's residence in New York as President, in 1789 ; and a large number of other Colonial and Revolutionary manuscripts.

GEORGE W. CHILDS, the distinguished Philadelphia philanthropist, has a very fine general collection of manuscripts and autographs, embracing twenty thousand names. They include the most celebrated literary men of both continents, each letter containing some sentiment characteristic of the writer. He has the manuscript of Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend*, for which he has refused \$6,000. He has also autographs of all the Presidents, bound and illustrated. We do not learn that he has made any collection of the Signers.

The collection of HENRY C. BAIRD, of Philadelphia, commenced in 1842, and described in the *Bizarre* magazine, April, 1853, included a goodly portion of the Signers, which have been dispersed. Dr. C. G. BARNEY, of Richmond, Va., made a fine collection of the Signers, containing many valuable historical letters, and lacking only Lynch and Gwinnett ; but despairing of securing these, he sold his autographs separately to other collectors. Col. BRANTZ MAYER, of Baltimore, a literary man of much repute, made a collection of the Signers, which lacked Taylor, Lynch, Middleton, Gwinnett, and Hall ; he dying in February, 1879, his autographs were dispersed at auction in November following. The late Hon. HENRY S. RANDALL, of Cortland, N. Y., also made a collection of the Signers, which needed only Gwinnett of completion, which since his death, August 14, 1876, passed, with his other autograph groups, which he had been some thirty years gathering, into the hands of Mr. C. DeF. Burns, and have been dispersed.

Other collections—notably those of B. B. THATCHER, of Boston ; CHARLES H. MORSE, of Cambridgeport, Mass. ; E. D. INGRAHAM, ALFRED B. TAYLOR, JOSEPH H. TODD, JOHN G. HOWARD, JOHN M. SEIGFRIED, and EDWARD HERRICK, of Pennsylvania ; JOHN R. THOMPSON, of Richmond, Va. ; JOSEPH B. BOYD, of Maysville, Ky. ; JOHN B. MOREAU, of New York ; OSCAR T. KEELER, of Columbus, Miss. ; and W. T. BLOCK, of Pittsburgh—have been disposed of, and served to strengthen other sets of autographs.

The autographs of extreme rarity, of some of the Signers, are steadily but surely enhancing in value. The Lynch signature, which, in 1845, had no pecuniary value, Mr. Davis paid \$5 for in 1861, and four or five years later Mr. Gratz paid \$10 for his ; Dr. Fogg \$95 in 1878 ; subsequently it brought \$145, \$150 in 1881, and \$210 at the recent Cist sale. The Gwinnett, in document form, which brought \$110 in 1878, and the same in 1881, commanded \$185 at the Cist sale ; and at this sale also a Lewis Morris letter brought \$85, while a Stockton letter netted \$50. Mr. Stauffer has refused \$300 for his full letter of John Morton, of which only one other is known to be in existence, save the unsigned one in the Raffles' collection.

Still other autograph collectors have been in the field. Col. PETER FORCE, of Washington, gathered many manuscripts and documents, which since his death have passed into the library of Congress. In the *Bizarre* magazine, Philadelphia, Oct. 29, 1853, quite a list of other known autograph collectors of that period is given : JAMES T. FIELDS, of Boston, chiefly of literary characters ; Capt. FURMAN SEYMOUR, U. S. A., West Point ; Dr. THEO. L. CUYLER, Trenton, N. J. ; Dr. L. R. KOECKER, WM. SCHOTT, JOS. H. HEDGES and Dr. S. A. ALLIBONE, all of Philadelphia—the latter since of the Astor Library, New York ; HENRY T. OATES, Charleston, S. C. ; and WM. L. MACKENZIE, Toronto. It is not probable that any of these collections embraced any considerable number of the Signers, nor have we any definite information whether any of these autograph garnerings, save those of Colonel Force, are still preserved intact, or have been dispersed. Such manuscript collections as those of JARED SPARKS, GEORGE BANCROFT, PETER FORCE, FRANCIS PARKMAN, and the writer of this essay, as well as those of the Historical Societies of our country, do not properly come within the scope of this paper, as they were



gathered, not for any autographic display and embellishment, but for the sole object of subserving the purposes of history.

In this connection it may be mentioned, that on the remarkable coincidence of the deaths of Adams and Jefferson, July 4th, 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the Declaration, Charles Carroll alone remained of that illustrious body who ventured on the experiment of American Independence. This venerable patriarch had several copies of the engrossed Declaration prepared, which he signed as the sole survivor, on the 2d of August, 1826—just fifty years after the signing of the great original. One of these he presented to John McTavish, who, we believe, married a daughter of the Signer, and is yet preserved in the family; another copy was presented to the New York City Library, countersigned by President J. Q. Adams and several of his cabinet officers and some other public characters, and also indorsed by Gov. DeWitt Clinton and others of the State of New York. This copy is bound in folio form in vellum, and after having been misplaced for many years, has recently been recovered.

SETS OF SIGNERS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Besides the thirty-nine Signers of the Constitution, there were thirty-four others chosen, who either declined acceptance of the membership, or failed to attend, or, though attending part or all of the session, did not affix their names to the instrument adopted by the Convention. Autographs of several of the Signers proper are difficult to obtain. A distinguished collector states that his personal experience leads him to declare that the relative rarity of the autographs of the delegates who did not sign the Constitution would be fairly expressed, at this time, by the following classification, referring to A. L. S., and not those of inferior grades:

1. Those most readily obtained: E. Gerry, Caleb Strong, Robert Yates, John Lansing, Luther Martin, Edmund Randolph, Nathl. Pendleton, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Gabriel Duvall, Thomas Sim Lee, Henry Laurens, Wm. R. Davie, John Pickering, Oliver Ellsworth, Richard Henry Lee, John Neilson, John F. Mercer and Patrick Henry.

2. Richard Caswell, William Pierce, George Walton, Abraham

Clark, James McClurg, Alexander Martin, George Mason, Robert H. Harrison and Thomas Nelson.

3. Benjamin West, Wm. Churchill Houston, Francis Dana, George Wythe, Wm. Houstoun and Thomas Stone.

4. Willie Jones.*

In briefly describing the full collections of the Constitutional Signers, and the incomplete sets as well, any mode of discrimination is not without its difficulties. In following the rule laid down in classifying the sets of the Declaration Signers, giving those precedence having the largest number of A. L. S., there is no certainty that really the best collections, if judged by their condition or historical value, are properly recognized. At present, however, we see no better way to get at the matter ; and if not deemed the best, each one must readjust the list to suit his own judgment, with the facts as they are reported and presented. If a committee of experts, as at a fair, were personally and carefully to examine the several collections in detail, they might reach very different results.

1. SIMON GRATZ, of Philadelphia. His set of the Signers of the Constitution is a superior one—undoubtedly the best extant. It is composed wholly of A. L. S., and includes not only the thirty-nine Signers proper, but the thirty-four others who were chosen delegates, and who either failed in their attendance or, from some other cause, did not sign the Constitution. Eight of the letters of the Signers are addressed to Washington, and nine others relate to the business of the Convention. Several of the autographs of the thirty-four non-Signers are more difficult of obtainment than those of any of the Signers proper.

2. Dr. J. S. H. FOGG, of Boston. Of his set of the thirty-nine Signers of the Constitution, all are A. L. S., except Blair, D. S. He has also full autograph letters, save of Wythe only, which is a signed document, of the other thirty-four who were chosen members of the Convention of 1787, but failed to sign the Constitution. Including

* For a full list of all the seventy-three persons chosen by States to the Federal Convention of 1787, whether they attended or not, and whether they signed the Constitution, or failed for any reason to do so, see Mr. P. L. Ford's carefully prepared paper, Appendix No. 2.

William Jackson, the Secretary, the collection is illustrated with fifty engravings, leaving twenty-four without likenesses.

3. and 4. CHARLES ROBERTS, of Philadelphia, has two full sets of the thirty-nine Signers proper, all in A. L. S., with appropriate illustrations. He has also one full set, and nearly another, of the non-Signers.

5. D. McN. STAUFFER, of New York, has a full set of the Signers of the Constitution, and also of the non-Signers, and all in A. L. S., save Bedford, Read, Jones, and West, A. D. S.; Dana, Blair, Wythe, and Houstoun, D. S. There are illustrations of fifty-six of the number; among the lacking likenesses are those of Pickering, Yates, Houston of New Jersey, Brearley, Broom, Fitzsimmons, Caswell, Pierce, Houstoun of Georgia, and Pendleton.

6. Col. C. C. JONES, Jr., of Augusta, Georgia. His set of the Signers of the Constitution is complete—all A. L. S., save Wilson and Read, A. D. S., and Franklin and Mifflin, D. S. The collection also includes all the members elect to the Convention of 1787, who were either not present, or failed to sign the engrossed document; and all these also are A. L. S., except Benjamin West, A. D. S. This series is likewise illustrated with portraits, inlaid on Whatman paper, and bound.

7. FERD. J. DREER, Philadelphia, has all the Signers in A. L. S., and quite a portion, in some form, of those chosen who did not attend, or did not sign. Properly illustrated.

8. Dr. THOMAS A. EMMET, of New York. Of his collection of the Signers of the Constitution, thirty-seven are A. L. S., and only Broom and Carroll are A. D. S.; fifteen are of folio size, and twenty-four are quartos. The set also includes sixteen others who were chosen members, but did not sign the Constitution—of which thirteen are full letters. It is an excellent set, and illustrated with portraits, views, etc.

9. STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Madison, Wis., has all the Signers proper in A. L. S., with suitable illustrative matter.

10 and 11. The late PROF. LEFFINGWELL had two sets of the Signers of the Constitution—the first consists of thirty-six A. L. S.; with Blair, L. S., and Bedford and Read, D. S. The second collection has thirty-five A. L. S., with Bedford, G. Morris, Read, and Blair, D. S. He had also a set of those who were elected to the

Convention of 1787, but failed from various causes to sign the Constitution. These descended to his niece, Miss Mary M. Leffingwell, of New Haven, Conn.

12. The late JOSEPH W. DREXEL, of New York, possessed the set made up by Mr. Tefft, of Georgia, consisting of thirty-two of the Signers proper, in A. L. S., with Sherman, Paterson, and Bedford, A. D. S.; Wilson, Bassett, and Rutledge, autographs not signed, and Blair, D. S. This set was purchased at the Tefft sale, in March, 1867, by the late Wm. Menzies; and at the sale of the Menzies' library and manuscripts, in Nov., 1876, it was bought by Joseph Sabin & Sons at \$290, and passed over to Mr. Drexel. After its purchase by Mr. Menzies, it received a full Washington letter in place of a D. S. It has printed biographies, is illustrated, and handsomely bound, with twenty-nine portraits which were inlaid by F. Bedford, and a rubricated title-page and special table of contents printed for the volume by Munsell.

13 and 14. Col. FRANK M. ETTING, of Ward, Pa., has two sets, which he represents as full, of which we have no classification.

15. C. F. GUNTHER, of Chicago, has the thirty-nine Signers proper—not reported in detail, but supposed to be nearly all in full letter form.

16. Rev. Dr. J. H. DUBBS, of Lancaster, Pa., has all the Signers proper, and only wanting three or four of the others chosen to the Convention; twenty-eight are A. L. S.; six A. D. S.; and the others D. S.

17. JOHN M. HALE, of Philipsburg, Pa., has a full set of the Signers of the Constitution, of which twenty-five are A. L. S.; four A. D. S.; five D. S.; three L. S.; and two signatures. He has also in some form autographs of all save nine of the non-Signers. The set is finely illustrated.

18. JAMES W. HOWARTH, of Glen Riddle, Pa., has a full set of the thirty-nine Signers of the Constitution, of which eleven are A. L. S.—namely, King, Clymer, Ingersoll, R. Morris, Wilson, Dickinson, McHenry, Madison, Washington, Rutledge, and Butler; Gorham, Johnson, Sherman, Dayton, Jenifer, and C. C. Pinckney, are A. D. S.; Gilman, Langdon, Livingston, Paterson, Franklin, Fitzsimmons, Mifflin, G. Morris, Bassett, Bedford, Broom, Blair, Blount, Spaight, William-

son, Charles Pinckney, Baldwin, and Few, are D. S.; Brearley, Read, and Carroll, signatures. Also thirteen who were chosen members but failed to be present to attach their names to the Constitution—Gerry, Martin, Randolph, and West, A. L. S.; Ellsworth and Walton, A. D. S.; Strong, Yates, Clark, Mercer, and Pendleton, D. S.; Patrick Henry, L. S.; and Wythe, signature. Illustrated as far as possible.

19. Hon. MELLE CHAMBERLAIN, of Boston, has a unique set of signatures of the Signers, appended to a neat copy of the Constitution.

INCOMPLETE SETS.

1. CHARLES P. GREENOUGH, of Boston, has thirty-six of the Signers proper to the Constitution, of which twenty-one are A. L. S.; Gilman, Langdon, Sherman, Bassett, Bedford, and Wilson, are A. D. S.; Gorham, A. N. S.; Dickinson, L. S.; Johnson, Paterson, G. Morris, Read, Jenifer, and Blair, D. S.; Spaight, signature; with Brearley, Carroll, and Blount wanting.

2. G. M. CONARROE, Philadelphia, has thirty-five of the thirty-nine Signers, lacking Johnson, Washington, Rutledge and Few.

3. Hon. CHARLES H. BELL, of Exeter, N. H., has autographs of twenty-nine of the Signers of the Constitution, about one-half of which are A. L. S. They form a part of his general collection of patriots of the Revolution, and are inlaid and illustrated.

4. GORDON L. FORD, of Brooklyn, N. Y., has about two-thirds of the Signers of the Constitution, scattered through his large general collection of autographs, alphabetically arranged—the exact number is not easily ascertained.

5. Hon. GARRET D. W. VROOM, Trenton, N. J., has twenty-six of the Constitution Signers. Langdon, King, Hamilton, Brearley, Dayton, Livingston, Paterson, Clymer, Dickinson, Fitzsimmons, Ingersoll, Gouv. and R. Morris, Spaight, Butler, and Few, A. L. S.; while Madison and Sherman are A. D. S.; and Gilman, Franklin, Mifflin, Washington, Blount, and Rutledge, are L. S.; and McHenry and C. C. Pinckney, signatures.

6. FRANK D. ANDREWS, Vineland, N. J., has autographs of twenty-one of the Signers proper—of these King, Fitzsimmons, Ingersoll, Jenifer, and Butler are A. L. S.; Clymer, Wilson, and Rutledge are A. D. S.; Hamilton and R. Morris are L. S.; Gilman, Langdon,

Livingston, Mifflin, and Washington are D. S. ; and Johnson, Sherman, Dickinson, Madison, Blount, and C. C. Pinckney are signatures.

Wanting to complete a set—Gorham, Dayton, Brearley, Paterson, Franklin, G. Morris, Bedford, Bassett, Broom, Read, Carroll, McHenry, Blair, Spaight, Williamson, C. Pinckney, Baldwin, and Few.

Of the non-Signers, Mr. Andrews has Strong, D. S. ; Pickering, Ellsworth, Yates and Henry, A. D. S.

7. Hon. JOHN BOYD THACHER, of Albany, N. Y., has the partial set, late E. E. Sprague's, of which several rare names are wanting. It is believed Mr. Thacher has considerably improved it.

8. The PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY has an incomplete collection.

In all the complete collections of autographs of the Signers of the Constitution, and probably in most of the partial ones as well, the autograph of William Jackson, the Secretary, is very properly included.

APPENDIX No. 1.

From the *American Antiquarian*, May, 1888.

THE "SPRING" AUTOGRAPH FORGERIES.

A NUMBER of these forgeries, well known to older collectors, have recently been offered, both privately and at New York auction sales. We can only advise beginners, or those who are not familiar with autographs, to examine carefully before purchasing, and, in case of doubt, to take the opinion of an expert. As a matter of interest we reprint, from a Philadelphia paper of November 5, 1869, an account of the forger and his peculiar transactions :

MAKING AND SELLING BOGUS AUTOGRAPHS—HEARING BEFORE THE MAYOR. —Yesterday afternoon a man by the name of Robert Spring, residing at No. 2,132 Christian Street, was before the Mayor, charged with obtaining money by false and fraudulent pretenses, by selling what purported to be autograph letters of Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, and other persons of eminence. To facilitate his designs he went under the names of William Emerson, Thomas French, Samuel Hawley, M.D., and Samuel R. Hampton, M.D.

He would obtain genuine letters of those he wished to use, and trace them upon a sheet of old paper procured from the backs of old books, or stain the paper with coffee grounds, or some other preparation, to give it an ancient look. These fraudulent letters would then be addressed to parties having fine libraries, or who were fond of collecting such articles. In the note accompanying the bogus letter, the writer would state that he was sadly in need of money, and if the recipient wished the autograph letter, he could send a certain sum of money to an address given, which would in nearly all cases be outside of Philadelphia, Camden being one of the principal points of operation.

A large number of replies were received to letters of this kind, and remittances varying from \$10 to \$15, and even more, were sent to him. He has operated in this manner for years. In 1859, he was arrested by Detective Franklin, the same who arrested him in the present instance, and taken before Mayor Henry, who held him to appear when desired. After this he left Philadelphia and went to Canada, writing several letters from that point in the name of "Emma Harding," which stated that she had in her possession a large collection of autograph letters, and being in destitute circumstances, owing to the recent death of her husband, she would be obliged if they were purchased, provided any were desired. She was to be addressed in the care of Samuel Hawley, M.D.

Several responses were received, a number of them containing money. From Canada he went to Baltimore, and wrote several letters in the name of Fannie Jackson, stating that she was a daughter of General Stonewall Jackson, and gave as an excuse for writing, that she was in poor circumstances and urgently needed money. They were principally sent to the rebel bondholders in England, but the whole thing was almost immediately exposed, and very little or nothing was

obtained. After this he went to England, and was exposed in London, but never brought to justice.

He wrote about eighty letters in November year ago, and requested the answers to be sent to Richmond, Va. Seventeen letters were received in response, directed to the name of Dr. S. R. Hampton. Three of them contained money. In his attempt to obtain money by the Jackson letters, sent to England, he received about £10.

Detective Franklin, sworn.—Complaint was made here a few days ago, in reference to a man named Spring, who is a dealer in autographs, charged with defrauding certain parties, by passing upon them fraudulent autograph letters; went down to his house to see him, and found a number of manuscripts; he was arrested in 1859, and came before Mayor Henry, charged with dealing in forged letters of General Washington; he then lived in Anita street, near Tenth; bought one of these letters myself; the paper he uses for these letters is prepared by himself, being generally stained with coffee; he frankly acknowledged his guilt yesterday when arrested; he also wrote me a letter at my request, and gave me the list of postmasters, where the letters had been sent from time to time.

The letter was here read by the detective, and is as follows:

PHILADELPHIA, October 4, 1869.

SIR: Hearing there have been several complaints made, I beg to state to you, from the remembrance of your fair and honorable treatment of my case with respect to the bogus Washington autographs, in the year 1858, that since I have resided in this city (June 6, 1868), I have never, by word or act, wronged any person in the United States, though I have obtained, in several instances, small sums from England, driven to such from dreadful home affliction, and to aid in supporting a large family of seven children, the youngest of whom died three months ago, at a moment I had not a dollar.

Mr. Gratz can inform you I have tried by every effort to obtain a creditable livelihood, and it was only to spin out my shortcomings that I solicited and obtained the small assistance I did from England about ten months since. I promised Mr. Gratz I would never do another dishonorable act, and with the exception of receiving replies to letters written to Europe before that period, and which, from my urgent affliction and often absolute want, I could not resist the temptation to keep, I have kept my promise. You know, Mr. Franklin, the affliction to which I allude. I am writing this under the greatest distress. I write this to you at four o'clock in the morning.

I am willing you should know all, and have it in your power to stop in future any dishonest attempt, should I make any. In November, 1868, I wrote about eighty letters. The replies were to be sent to Richmond, Va., and Baltimore. The postmasters of Richmond and Baltimore were requested to re-direct to Camden, N. J. I received, as far as I can remember, seventeen letters, three containing money, £10, £5, £1 (a sovereign). They were in the name of Dr. S. R. Hampton, and, of course, are all run out.

My second attempt was the Jackson letters, which were immediately exposed in England, though not before I had received several letters, two containing money, £5 and £5, and were received at Fairfax, Va., Bloomfield, N. J., &c., postmasters of which forwarded to Lenwood, Pa. The latter were the same letters as Dr. Hampton's, only in name of Hawley. These were written in July, and received £25. These were sent to Bordentown and Elkton, Md., postmasters to re-direct to Eddenton, Pa., Kelleysville, Pa., Lazaretto, Philadelphia. At the same time I wrote ten letters almost similar to the Jackson, from two of which I received £10, and although so late, I last week saw an advertisement in Baltimore, and requested the postmaster at Lazaretto to send the letter to Philadelphia. I send you orders on all the postmasters, so that in future if any more arrive they may

reach you—not me. Anyhow, I promise you, without any reservation, never again to use any dishonorable means to procure money. I will rather starve first. I gave my word in Boston I would never write to any one in the United States. I kept my promise. I now make it to you, without any reservation.

Yours, in great affliction,

W. E.

The second letter was the Jackson letter, stated to have been written by a daughter of Stonewall Jackson, and which was sent all over Europe; he had answers to this letter sent to different sub-post-offices, so that they should not come direct to Philadelphia. He has admitted the whole thing to be a forgery, and I have recovered some fifty letters from him. I have his post-office book with the addresses of the people to whom he wrote.

Detective Franklin then took the prisoner down stairs to see the Washington letter in Independence Hall, and to discover if it was original. Upon his return the detective reported that it was a forgery, and that it had been written by the prisoner himself.

Robert Coulson Davis, druggist, residing at Sixteenth and Vine Streets, sworn.—Have known the prisoner personally for a good many years; became acquainted with him through having a fancy for collecting autographs and things of that nature; he was residing in Lombard Street when I first knew him. What led me to know about these forgeries was that they were repeatedly handed to me by the parties to whom they were addressed; being expert in distinguishing such matters was the cause of their being sent to me; I have also had several conversations with the prisoner in relation to the forgeries some years ago, but have not seen him before since '62 or '63, when he left here and went to Baltimore.

Mr. Davis exhibited a book, which contained a large number of the forgeries of the accused. We give a few of those of Washington, which may be interesting to the general public:

HEADQUARTERS VALLEY FORGE, Jan. 29, 1778.—Sir:—Send to General McIntosh's quarters the two men arrested last night at the King of Prussia Inn, and again at dark order a picket of eight men to patrol on the Norristown road some distance beyond the tavern, with orders to bring in all strangers unable to give a good account of themselves found on the road.

GO. WASHINGTON.

To General Huntingdon.

HEADQUARTERS VALLEY FORGE, Feb. 4, 1778.—Permission is granted to Mr. Clymer, with his negro man Ben, to pass and repass the pickets at the bridge and on the Norristown road.

GO. WASHINGTON.

HEADQUARTERS, BERGEN COUNTY, Sept. 7, 1780.—Permission is granted to Mr. Lewis Stevens, with his negro boy Nat, to pass and repass the picket at Rambo.

GO. WASHINGTON.

MOUNT VERNON, Dec. 18, 1793.—To the Cashier of the Office of Discount and Deposit, Baltimore:—Will please pay General Samuel Smith or bearer, the sum of eight hundred dollars, and charge the same to my account.

\$800.

GO. WASHINGTON.

At the conclusion of the testimony of Mr. Davis, the Mayor held the accused in \$500 for a further hearing.

APPENDIX No. 2.

From the *Collector*, September and October, 1888.

THE FEDERAL CONVENTION, 1787.

BY PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

IN 1819, when John Quincy Adams, by direction of Congress, edited and published the *Journal of the Federal Convention*, he drew up from the commissions, etc., filed by the attending delegates, a list of the members, including those who were appointed but did not attend, and those who attended and did not sign the completed instrument, making in all a list of sixty-five names.

This list was accepted and republished by Elliot in his *Debates in the State Convention*, by Curtis, in his *History of the Constitution*, and more recently in the *Official Programme of the Constitutional Centennial*, and no additions are promised in the forthcoming memorial volume of that celebration. Thus, this list, prepared in 1819, has become a fixture, and both students and autograph collectors have accepted it as correct.

There are, however, several omissions, and by reference to original documents, acts, journals, etc., I have increased the list to seventy-four names. To this I have added, in such cases as I have been able, the reasons of members for declining the appointment, and for the non-attendance of such as failed to be present in the Convention; the day of arrival of the attending members; their absences; the date of leaving of those who failed to sign the Constitution, with their reasons; and the part the non-attending or non-signing members took in their own States in support of or opposition to the ratification.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Appointed delegates by Act of Legislature, June 27, 1787.

Langdon, John. Attended Convention July 23. Signed.

Pickering, John. Did not attend Convention. Voted to ratify the Constitution in the New Hampshire Convention.

Gilman, Nicholas. Attended Convention July 23. Signed.

West, Benjamin. Did not attend Convention. Voted to ratify Constitution in New Hampshire Convention.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Appointed delegates by Act of Legislature, March 10, 1787. Commissioned by Governor, April 9, 1787.

Dana, Francis. Did not attend Convention owing to judicial duties and ill-health. Voted to ratify the Constitution in Massachusetts Convention.

Gerry, Elbridge. Attended Convention May 29. Sat through the session, but refused to sign. Was strongly opposed to the adoption of the Constitution by Massachusetts, but was defeated in his election to the State Convention.

Gorham, Nathaniel. Attended Convention May 28. Signed.

King, Rufus. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.
Strong, Caleb. Attended Convention May 28. Left Convention some time after August 16. Voted in favor of ratifying Constitution in Massachusetts Convention.

CONNECTICUT.

Appointed delegates by Act of Legislature, May, 1787.
Johnson, William Samuel. Attended Convention June 2. Signed.
Sherman, Roger. Attended Convention May 30. Signed.
Ellsworth, Oliver. Attended Convention May 28. Left Convention some time after August 23. Voted to ratify Constitution in Connecticut Convention.

NEW YORK.

Act providing for appointing delegates passed February 28, 1787.
 Elected by Legislature, March 16, 1787.
Yates, Robert. Attended Convention May 25. Left Convention July 5. Voted against ratification of the Constitution in the New York Convention.
Hamilton, Alexander. Attended Convention May 25. Was in New York July 3-26. Again in Convention August 13, and was in New York August 20-26. Signed.
Lansing, John, Jr. Attended Convention June 2. Left Convention July 5. Voted against ratification of the Constitution in New York Convention.

NEW JERSEY.

Appointed delegates by Acts of Legislature, 1786-7.
 Commissioned by Governor, November 23, 1786, May 18 and June 5, 1787.
Brearley, David. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.
Houston, William Churchill. Attended Convention May 25. Ill health compelled him to leave some time after July 23.
Paterson, William. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.
Neilson, John. Did not attend Convention. Voted to ratify the Constitution in New Jersey Convention.
Livingston, William. Attended Convention June 25, having been delayed by his official duties as Governor of New Jersey. Was absent from Convention July 3-19. Signed.
Clark, Abraham. Did not attend Convention, being present in the Continental Congress. Opposed to the adoption of the Constitution in New Jersey, but though elected to the State Convention was prevented by ill health from attending.
Dayton, Jonathan. Attended Convention June 23, not having been appointed until June 5. Signed.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Appointed delegates by Act of Legislature, December 30, 1786. Supplementary act, appointing Franklin, passed March 28, 1787.
Mifflin, Thomas. Attended Convention May 28. Signed.
Morris, Robert. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.
Clymer, George. Attended Convention May 28. Signed.
Ingersoll, Jared. Attended Convention May 28. Signed.
Fitzsimmons, Thomas. Attended Convention May 28. Signed.
Wilson, James. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.
Morris, Gouverneur. Attended Convention May 25. Was absent for some time prior to July 2. Signed.
Franklin, Benjamin. Attended Convention May 28. Signed.

DELAWARE.

Appointed delegates by Act of Legislature, February 3, 1787. Commissioned by Governor, April 2, 1787.

Read, George. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.
Bedford, Gunning. Attended Convention May 28. Signed.
Dickinson, John. Attended Convention May 29. Signed.
Bassett, Richard. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.
Broom, Jacob. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.

MARYLAND.

Elected delegates by Legislature, April 23, 1787. Vacancies filled by Legislature, May 5, 8, and 22. Commissioned by Act of Legislature, May 26, 1787.

Harrison, Robert Hanson. Declined.
Carroll, Charles of Carrollton. Declined. Favored adoption.
Stone, Thomas. Declined. Died just after publication of the Constitution.
McHenry, James. Attended Convention May 28. Left June 1, owing to the illness of his brother. Returned prior to August 13. Signed.
Lee, Thomas Sim. Declined. Voted in favor of ratifying in Maryland Convention.
Duwall, Gabriel. Declined.
Jenifer, Daniel, of St. Thomas. Attended Convention June 2. Signed.
Carroll, Daniel. Attended Convention July 9. Signed.
Mercer, James Francis. Attended Convention August 6. Left September 4. Opposed the adoption of the Constitution in Maryland.
Martin, Luther. Attended the Convention June 9. Left September 4. Opposed the adoption of the Constitution in Maryland.

VIRGINIA.

Elected delegates by Legislature, December 4, 1786. Vacancies filled by Governor.

Washington, George. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.
Henry, Patrick. Declined. Voted against the ratification of the Constitution in the Virginia Convention.
Randolph, Edmund. Attended Convention May 25. Sat through the session, but refused to sign. Voted in favor of ratifying in the Virginia Convention.
Blair, John. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.
Madison, James. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.
Mason, George. Attended Convention May 25. Sat through the session, but refused to sign. Voted against the ratification of the Constitution in the Virginia Convention.
Wythe, George. Attended Convention May 25. Left June 5, owing to "the serious declension of his lady's health." Voted in favor of ratification in Virginia Convention.
Lee, Richard Henry. Declined, "for family reasons," and because he did not approve that the same men who had framed the Constitution should pass upon it in the Continental Congress. Opposed the adoption of the Constitution.
Nelson, Thomas. Declined, having retired into private life. Was opposed to the adoption of the Constitution.
McClurg, James. Attended the Convention May 25. Left Convention some time after July 20. Favored the adoption of the Constitution.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Appointed delegates by Act of Legislature, January 6, 1787. Vacancies filled by Governor, April 3 and 23, 1787.

Caswell, Richard. Declined. Favored adoption of the Constitution, but was defeated in his election to the first North Carolina Convention.

Martin, Alexander. Attended Convention May 25. Left Convention after July 26. Favored adoption of the Constitution, but was defeated in his election to the first North Carolina Convention.

Davie, William Richardson. Attended Convention May 25. Left after July 26. Voted to ratify the Constitution in the North Carolina Convention.

Spaight, Richard Dobbs. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.

Jones, Willie. Declined. Voted against the ratification of the Constitution in the first North Carolina Convention.

Blount, William. Attended Convention June 20, being "detained by indisposition in New York." Was in Continental Congress July 13-August 24. Disapproved the Constitution, but signed. Was defeated in his election to first North Carolina Convention.

Williamson, Hugh. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Act providing for delegates passed by Legislature, March 8, 1787. Elected by first ballot of Legislature. Commissioned by Governor, April 10, 1787.

Rutledge, John. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.

Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.

Pinckney, Charles. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.

Butler, Pierce. Attended Convention May 25. Was present in the Continental Congress August 2-5. Signed.

Laurens, Henry. Never attended, being "kept away by ill health." Voted in favor of ratifying the Constitution in South Carolina Convention.

GEORGIA.

Appointed delegates by Act of Legislature, February 10, 1787. Commissioned by Governor, April 17, 1787.

Few, William. Attended Convention May 25. Signed.

Baldwin, Abraham. Attended Convention June 11. Signed.

Pierce, William. Attended Convention May 31. Was present in the Continental Congress July 13-September 24.

Walton, George. Did not attend Convention.

Houstoun, William. Attended Convention June 1. Left some time after July 18.

Pendleton, Nathaniel. Did not attend Convention.



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